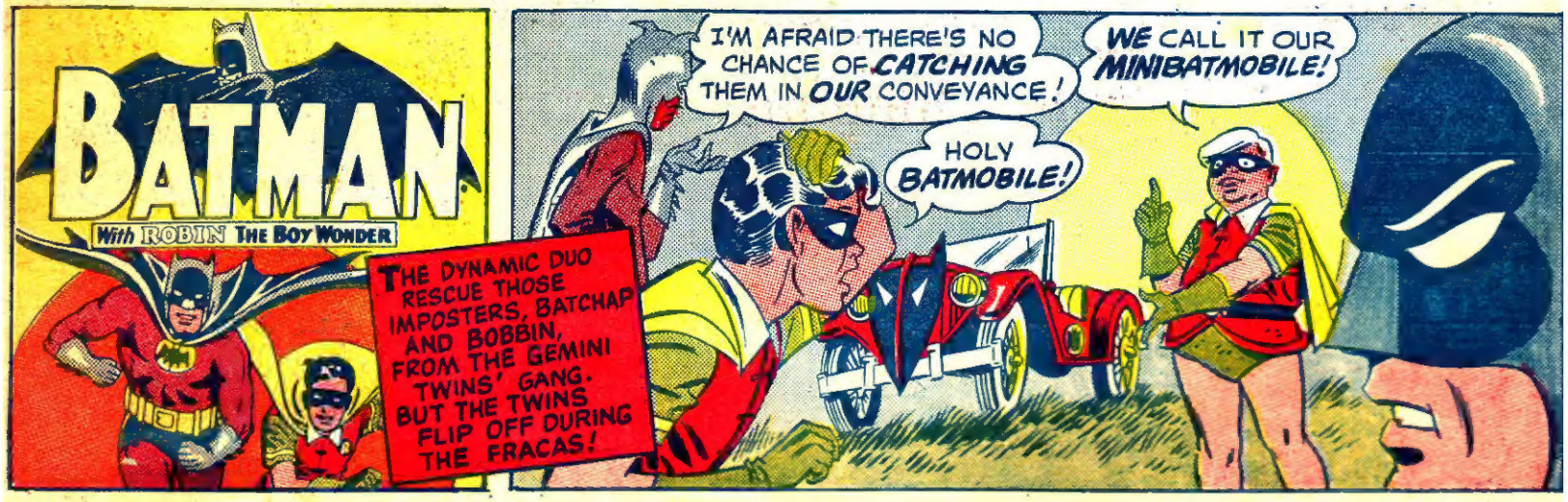
A POWER COMIC

THE HULK BATTLES THE HUMANOID HORDE!

SMASH!

No. 53
4th FEB. 1967

EVERY MONDAY
7d



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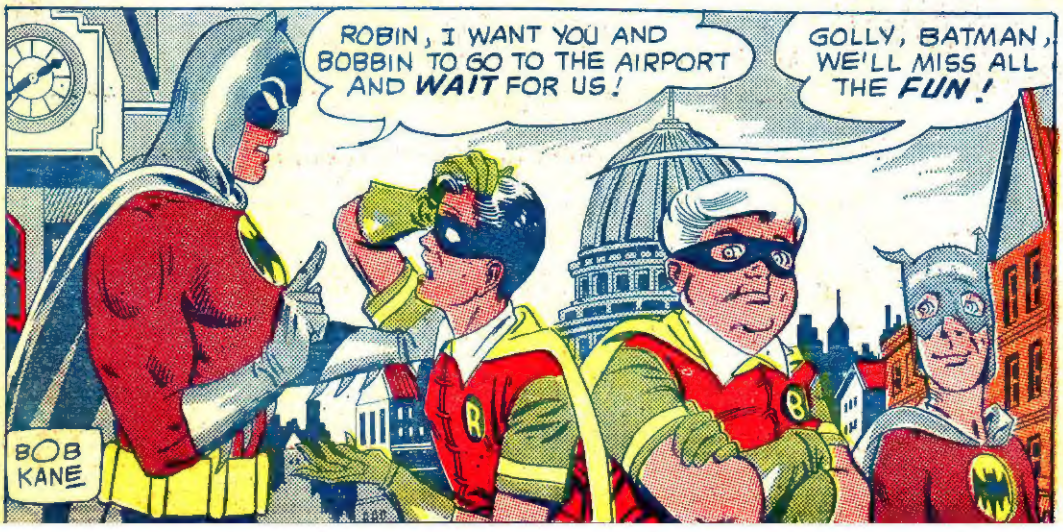

SMASH! printed in Great Britain by St. Clements Press Ltd., 112 Queen Victoria St., London, E.C.4. and published by Odhams Press Ltd., Long Acre, London, W.C.2. Sole agents for Australia and New Zealand, Gordon & Gotch (A/sia) Ltd.: South Africa, Central News Agency Ltd. Subscription Rates: Inland 12 months 43/4; abroad (including Canada), 12 months 39/-; Dollar Rate for U.S.A. $6; Canada $6.50. Please send your order to Subscription Dept., 8-9 Long Acre, London, W.C.2.
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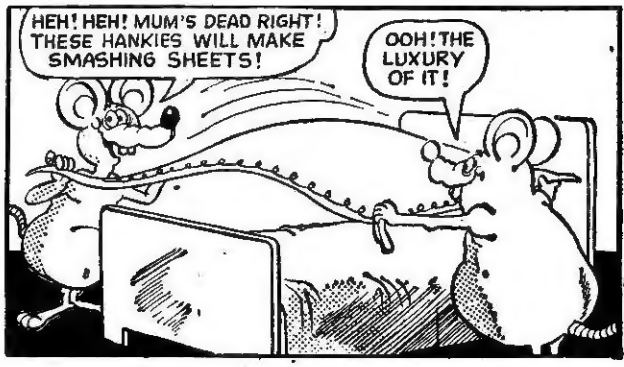
Percy's Pets

AAH! IT'S NICE TO GET BETWEEN THE LOVELY WARM SHEETS ON THESE COLD NIGHTS!
BRR! IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR HIM! WE HAVEN'T GOT ANY SHEETS ON OUR BED!

NEXT DAY...
AGH! I HAD TWO NICE CLEAN HANKIES IN HERE—THEY'VE GONE! I BET THIS IS PERCY'S PETS' DOING!


HEH! HEH! MUM'S DEAD RIGHT! THESE HANKIES WILL MAKE SMASHING SHEETS!
OOH! THE LUXURY OF IT!

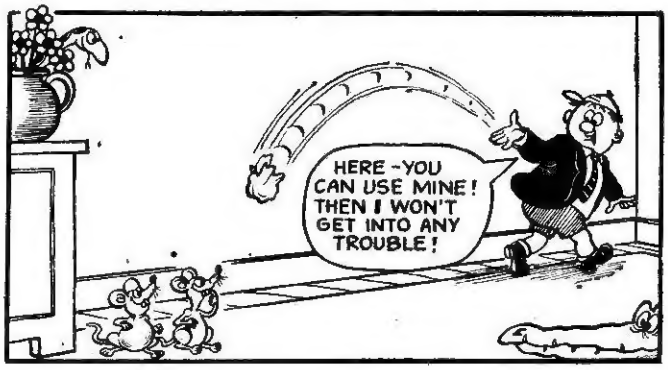
GRR! YOU TWO! I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN!
BAH! WE ALWAYS GET FOUND OUT!

LATER...
HEH! HEH! QUIETLY DOES IT, WE'LL PINCH DAD'S POCKET HANDKERCHIEF!

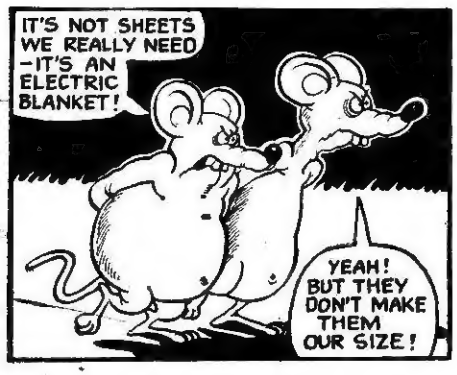
TEE! HEE! IT'S A NICE CLEAN ONE, WE WON'T EVEN HAVE TO WASH IT!

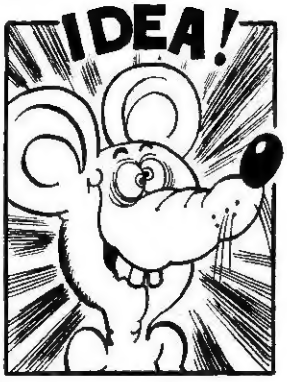
SAVES A LONG WALK DOWN! SNIGGER!

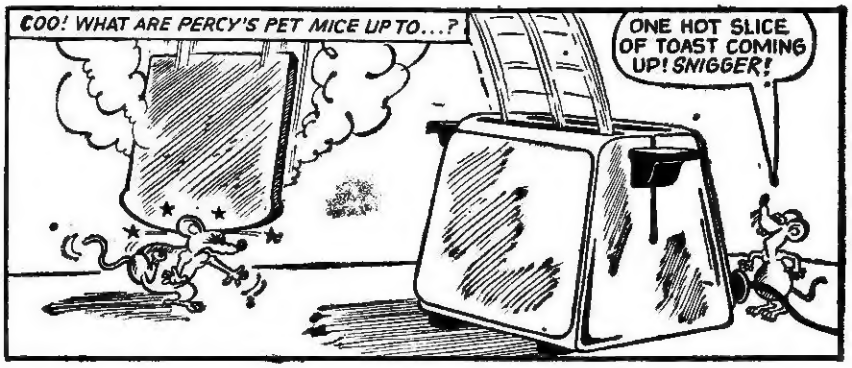
OH, NO YOU DON'T! YOU TWO HAVE GOT ME INTO ENOUGH TROUBLE!
BAH! THAT'S A PAL FOR YOU!

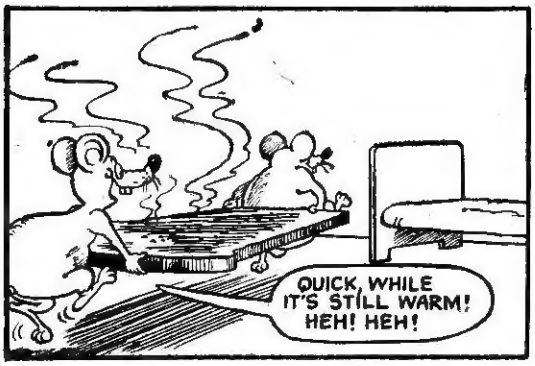

HERE - YOU CAN USE MINE! THEN I WON'T GET INTO ANY TROUBLE!

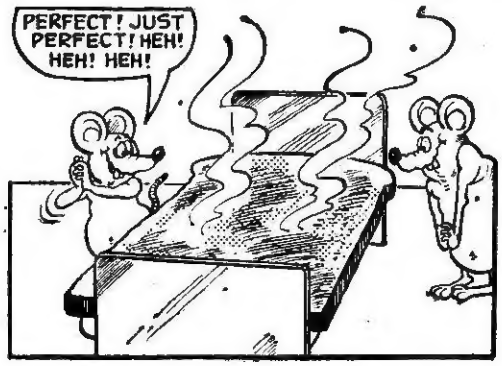
HELP! WE CAN'T SLEEP IN THIS.— IT'S FILTHY!
YEAH! IT'S ALL COVERED IN CHEWING-GUM, TAR AND SMELLY OIL!
GUM


IT'S NOT SHEETS WE REALLY NEED - IT'S AN ELECTRIC BLANKET!
YEAH! BUT THEY DON'T MAKE THEM OUR SIZE!


IDEA!


COO! WHAT ARE PERCY'S PET MICE UP TO...?
ONE HOT SLICE OF TOAST COMING UP! SNIGGER!


QUICK, WHILE IT'S STILL WARM! HEH! HEH!

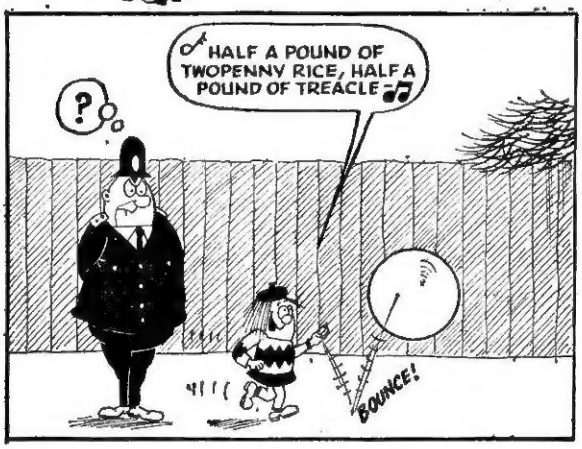

PERFECT! JUST PERFECT! HEH! HEH! HEH!

HO! HO! THIS IS BETTER THAN ANY MOULDY OLD SHEETS!
HEH! HEH! WE'RE AS WARM AS TOAST! GOODNIGHT FOLKS!

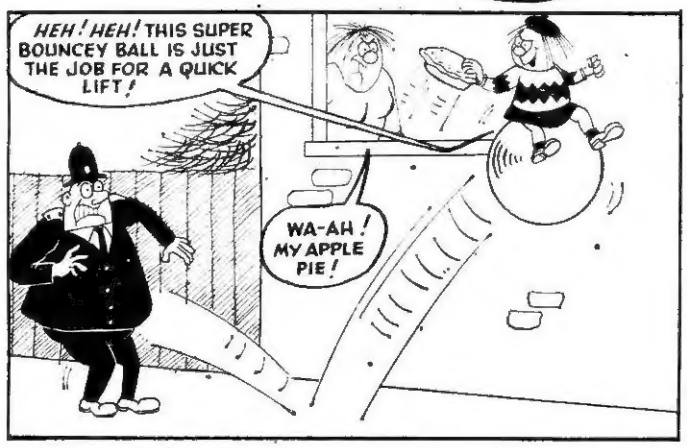
AMMO

BAD PENNY

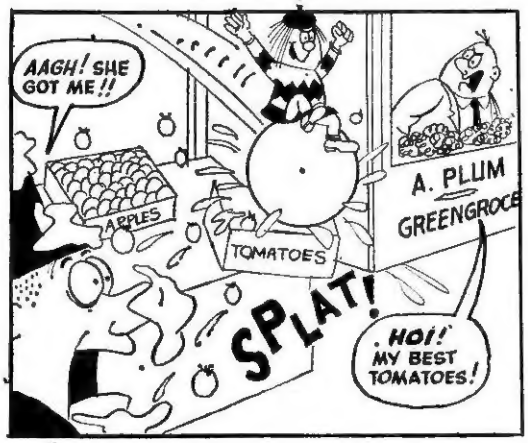
ONE PENNY
1967

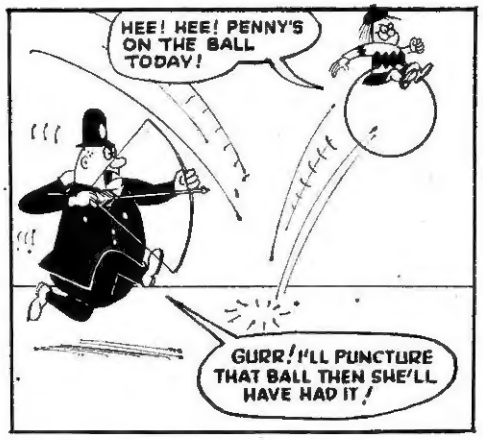

HALF A POUND OF TWOPENNY RICE, HALF A POUND OF TREACLE ♫
?
BOUNCE!

I DON'T LIKE IT! I DON'T LIKE IT! DID YOU SEE THAT SMILE OF PURE INNOCENCE?

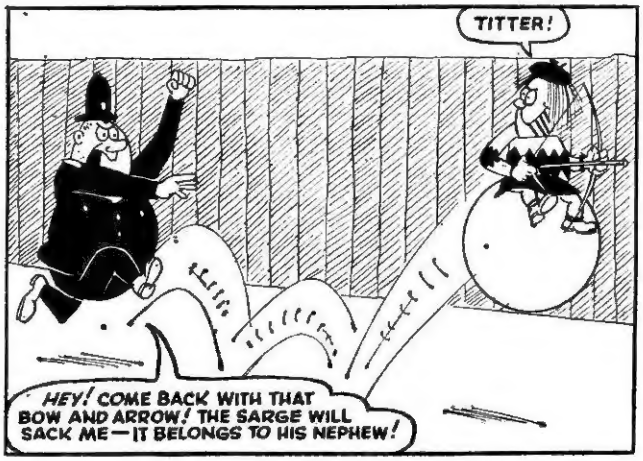

HEH! HEH! THIS SUPER BOUNCEY BALL IS JUST THE JOB FOR A QUICK LIFT!
WA-AH! MY APPLE PIE!

STOP! STOP IN THE NAME OF THE LAW!
MUNCH!
MUNCH!

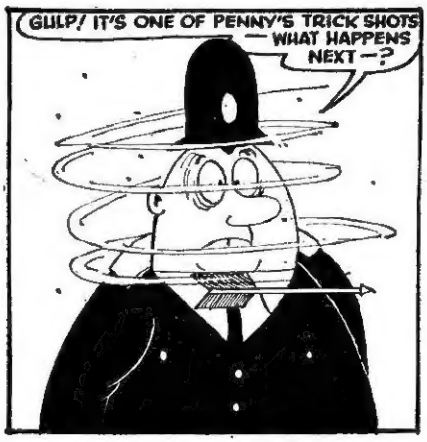

AAGH! SHE GOT ME!!
APPLES
TOMATOES
A. PLUM
GREENGROCER
SPLAT!
HO! MY BEST TOMATOES!


HEE! HEE! PENNY'S ON THE BALL TODAY!
GURR! I'LL PUNCTURE THAT BALL THEN SHE'LL HAVE HAD IT!

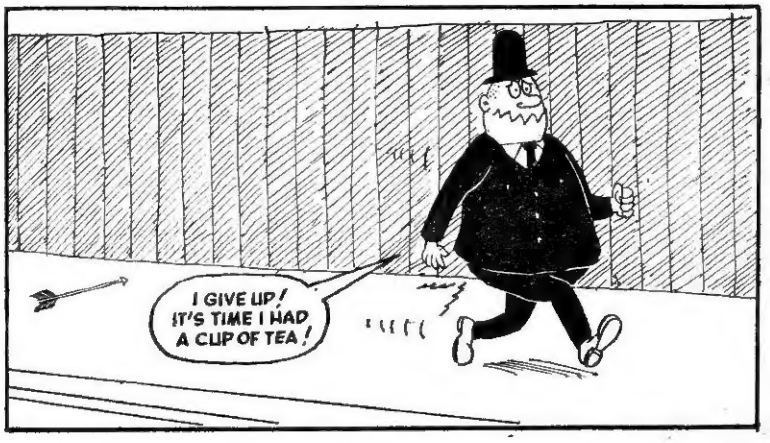
HEH! HEH! I CAN MAKE IT BOUNCE BACKWARDS, TOO!
OOF!

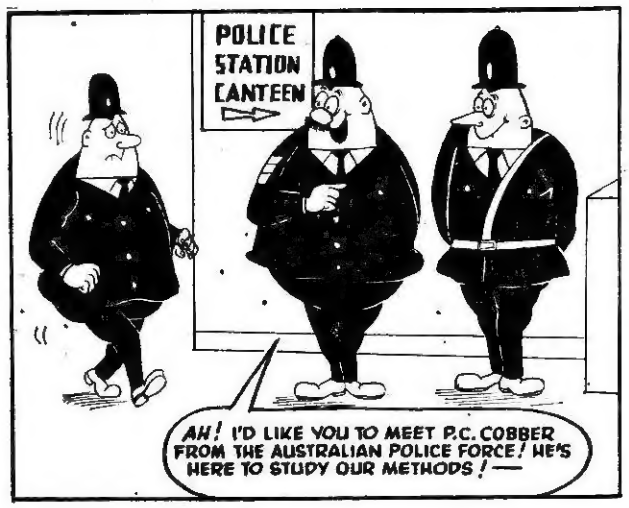

TITTER!
HEY! COME BACK WITH THAT BOW AND ARROW! THE SARGE WILL SACK ME—IT BELONGS TO HIS NEPHEW!

HERE'S THE ARROW BACK FOR A START!

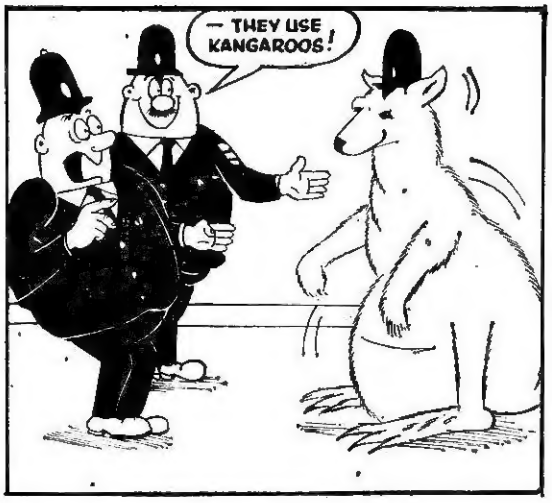

GULP! IT'S ONE OF PENNY'S TRICK SHOTS — WHAT HAPPENS NEXT—?

EEK!
NOW HE KNOWS!

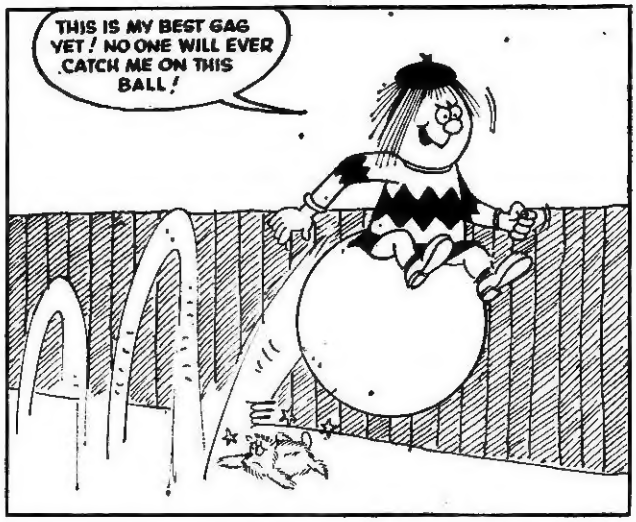

I GIVE UP! IT'S TIME I HAD A CUP OF TEA!


POLICE STATION CANTEEN
AH! I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET P.C. COBBER FROM THE AUSTRALIAN POLICE FORCE! HE'S HERE TO STUDY OUR METHODS!—

—HE'S ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN OUR POLICE DOGS! THEY DON'T USE DOGS DOWN UNDER—
FIDO

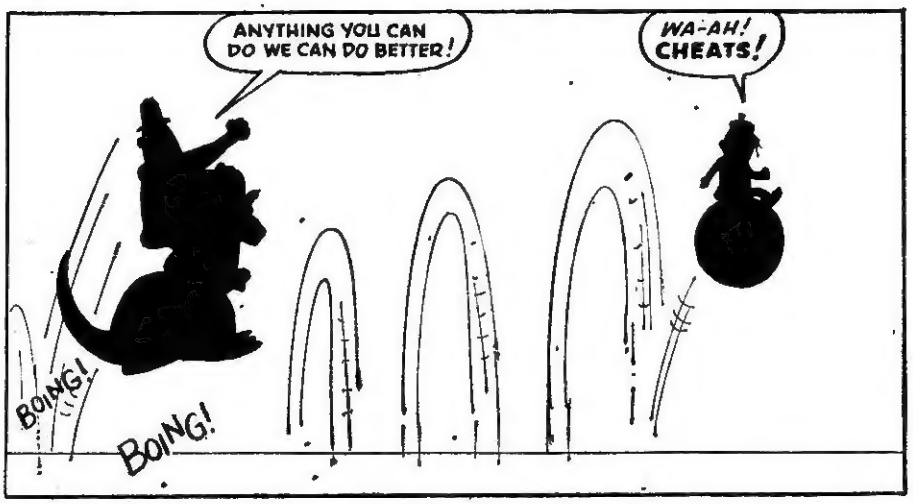

—THEY USE KANGAROOS!

AH-HAR! I THINK PENNY'S IN FOR A BIG SURPRISE!

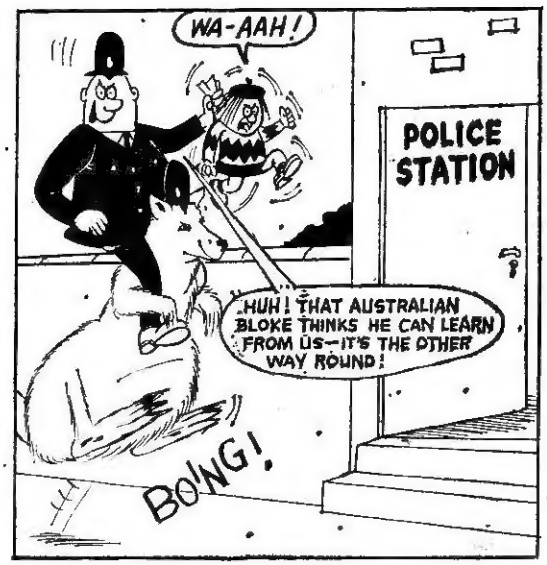

THIS IS MY BEST GAG YET! NO ONE WILL EVER CATCH ME ON THIS BALL!

? ? ?
BOING!
BOING!
BOING!

A P-PERISHIN' KANGAROO KOP!— W-WHERE DID THAT COME FROM—?
BOING!


ANYTHING YOU CAN DO WE CAN DO BETTER!
WA-AH! CHEATS!
BOING!
BOING!

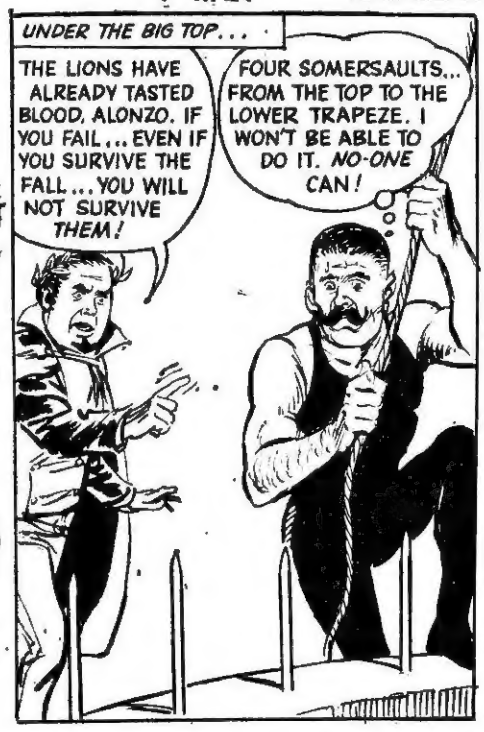
EEK!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
BOING!

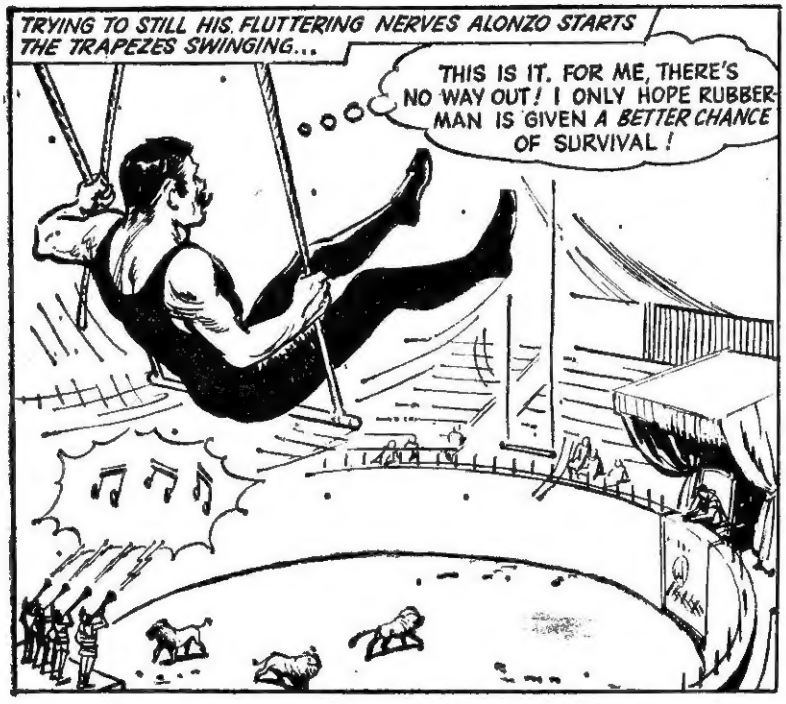

WA-AAH!
POLICE STATION
HUH! THAT AUSTRALIAN BLOKE THINKS HE CAN LEARN FROM US—IT'S THE OTHER WAY ROUND!
BOING!

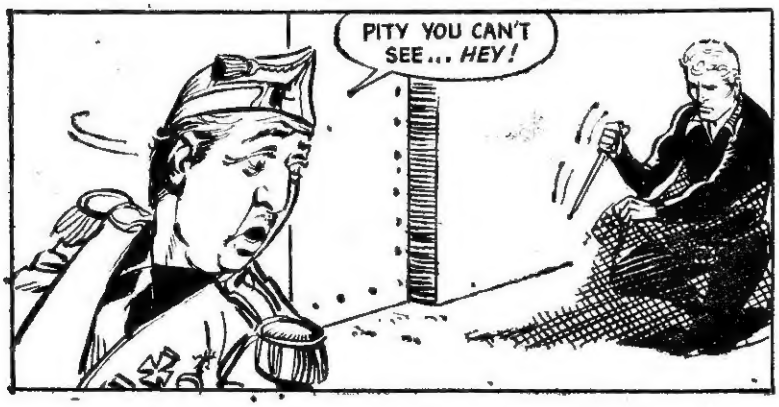
SLURP!
TEA?
ROTTERS! THEY'VE SENTENCED ME TO SEVEN HOURS HARD LABOUR—MAKING THEIR BLOOMING TEA! BAH!
MORE SUGAR —AND HURRY UP! HEH! HEH!

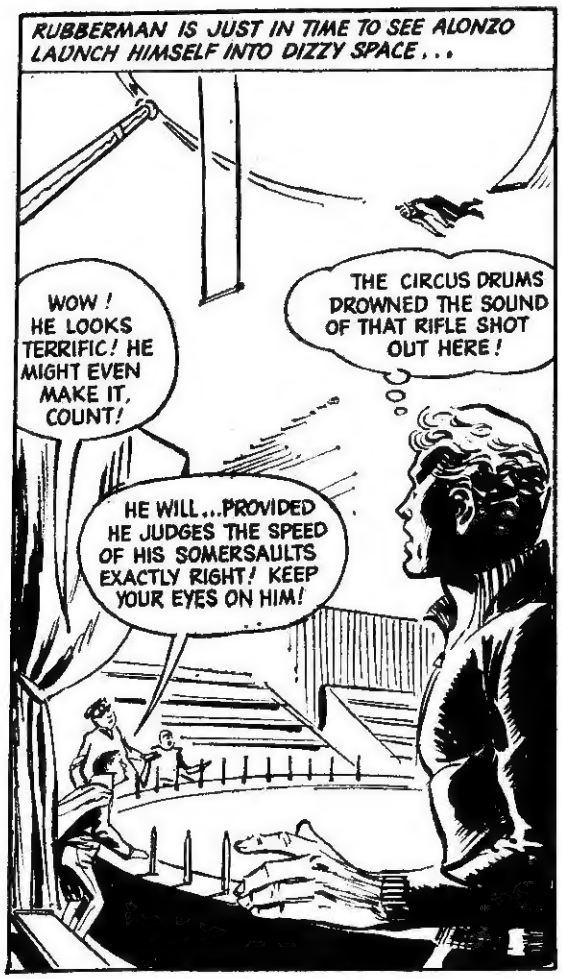
IT'S THE RUBBER MAN!

DEATH IS THE PENALTY OF FAILURE FOR THE LUCKLESS PERFORMERS IN COUNT ARENA'S CIRCUS OF DOOM. THE INCREDIBLE **RUBBERMAN** HAS BEEN OVERPOWERED... AND HIS TRAPEZE-ACE FRIEND, **ALONZO**, FACES CERTAIN DISASTER...

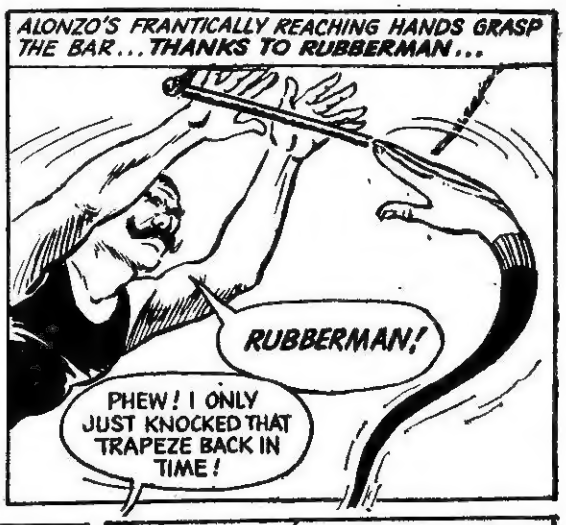


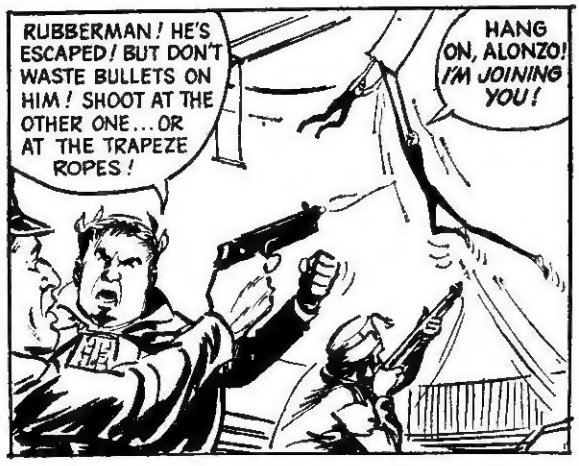





RUBBERMAN IS JUST IN TIME TO SEE ALONZO LAUNCH HIMSELF INTO DIZZY SPACE...
WOW! HE LOOKS TERRIFIC! HE MIGHT EVEN MAKE IT, COUNT!
THE CIRCUS DRUMS DROWNED THE SOUND OF THAT RIFLE SHOT OUT HERE!
HE WILL...PROVIDED HE JUDGES THE SPEED OF HIS SOMERSAULTS EXACTLY RIGHT! KEEP YOUR EYES ON HIM!

BUT...
NO! HE WON'T DO IT! SEE! THE LOWER TRAPEZE IS STARTING ITS RETURN SWING... AWAY FROM HIM!

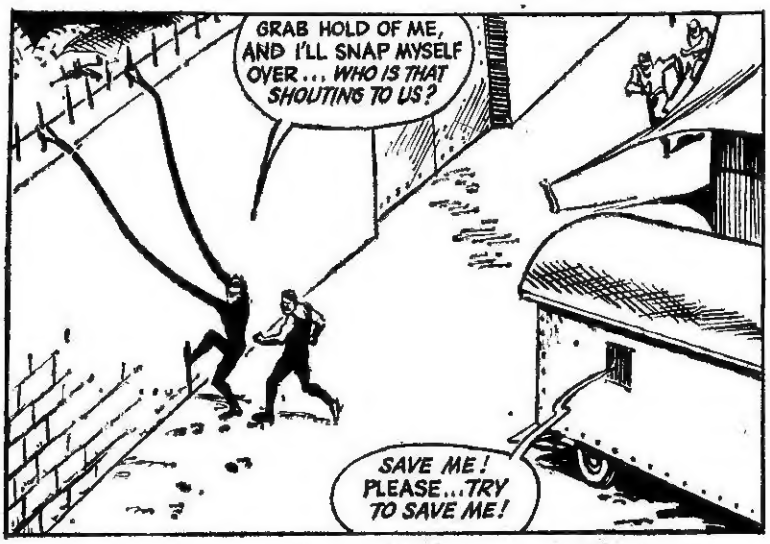

ALONZO'S FRANTICALLY REACHING HANDS GRASP THE BAR...THANKS TO RUBBERMAN...
RUBBERMAN!
PHEW! I ONLY JUST KNOCKED THAT TRAPEZE BACK IN TIME!


RUBBERMAN! HE'S ESCAPED! BUT DON'T WASTE BULLETS ON HIM! SHOOT AT THE OTHER ONE...OR AT THE TRAPEZE ROPES!
HANG ON, ALONZO! I'M JOINING YOU!

NOW! LET GO... AND CLING ON TO ME!

AS THEY HURTLE FROM THE SWING, THE BIG-TOP CANVAS RIPS UNDER THE IMPACT OF THEIR BODIES...
QUICKLY, YOU FOOLS! GET OUT THERE! STOP THEM!

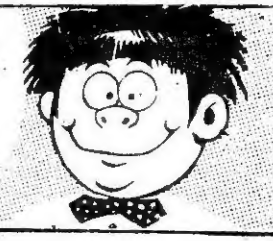
ALONZO'S FALL IS CUSHIONED BY HIS FRIEND'S RUBBER BODY...
WE'VE DONE THIS BEFORE! BUT... I'LL NEVER GET USED TO BOUNCING LIKE A SORBO BALL!
WE'LL TRY NOT TO MAKE A HABIT OF IT, OLD FRIEND!

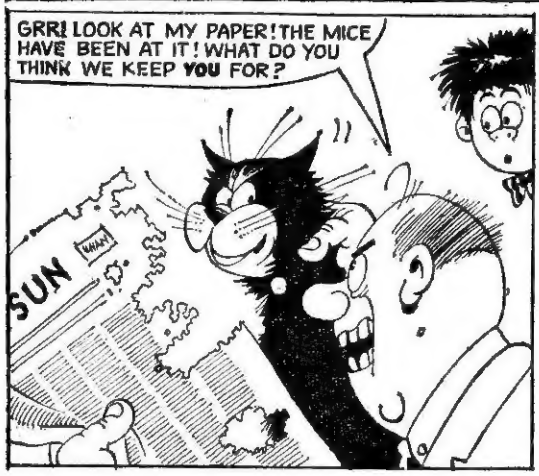

GRAB HOLD OF ME, AND I'LL SNAP MYSELF OVER... WHO IS THAT SHOUTING TO US?
SAVE ME! PLEASE...TRY TO SAVE ME!

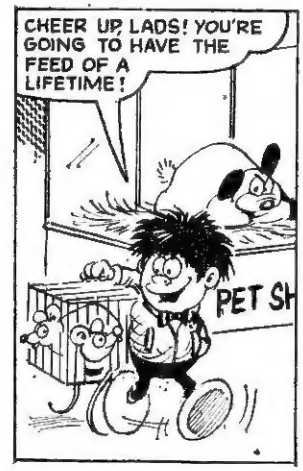
RUBBERMAN PAUSES, HIS BRAIN WHIRLING, AS HE RECOGNISES THE FACE AT THE BARRED WINDOW...
IT'S THE FAKIR! THE DEVIL WHOSE CURSE TURNED ME INTO RUBBER! IF I LEAVE HIM TO THE MERCY OF COUNT ARENA... I'LL LOSE ALL CHANCE OF LIVING A NORMAL LIFE AGAIN!
AND IF WE DON'T LEAVE... RIGHT NOW... WE'LL LOSE ALL CHANCE OF LIVING AT ALL!
RUBBERMAN HAS SCANT SECONDS TO MAKE HIS CHOICE! YOU HAVE A WHOLE WEEK TO MAKE SURE YOU GET NEXT MONDAY'S SMASH! SO YOU'VE ONLY YOURSELF TO BLAME IF YOU MISS THE MOST PULSATING INSTALMENT OF RUBBERMAN YET!

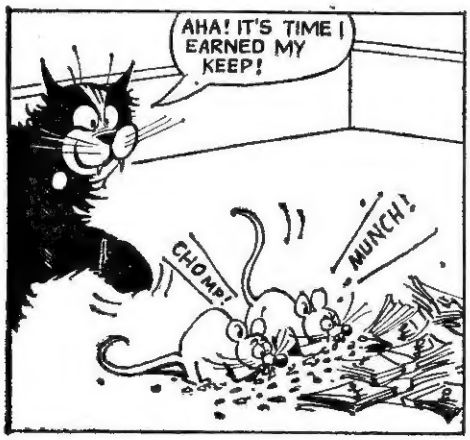
HE'LL INHERIT A MILLION—*IF* HE CAN SPEND THE MONEY HE'S GOT...

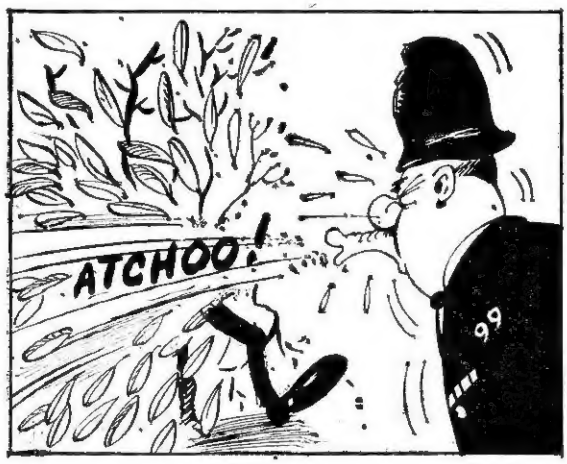
RONNIE RICH

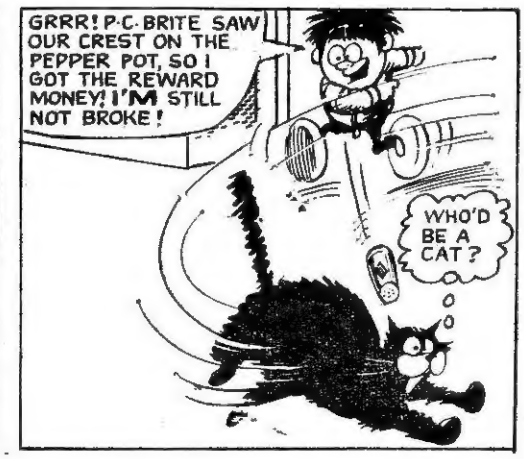












MEET... Mister Knowall

He knows everything there is to know about everything—and he's here to show you what a load of laughs it is to be a Knowall, too!

WHO says you can't get water out of a stone? Gather yourself an audience and prepare to perform a Twentieth Century miracle. And all you'll need is a piece of cotton wool about the size of a matchhead. Slightly soak the cotton wool in water and carry it around in a matchbox waiting for the right moment to perform your magic.

Then, just beforehand, secretly conceal it behind your ear. It will stick there quite comfortably and no one will notice it.

Now pick up any old stone and hold it close to your ear announcing in your most surprised voice that you can hear water inside it.

When everyone looks at you as though you've gone off your trolley, hand them the stone to listen to. They will hear nothing. But, keeping up the excitement, ask for the stone back and hold it close to your ear again—in such a way that, this time, you can remove the cotton wool. It will be hidden behind the stone, so again no one will see what you have done.

Now, insisting there is water in the stone, squeeze it with all your might.

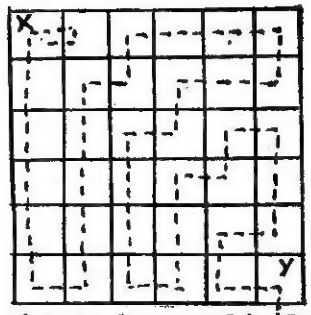
Sure enough, the water from the cotton wool will seem to drip out of the stone. Don't let on, and the gang will be talking about your super-human powers for a long, long time!

"WOULD you like to see your favourite SMASH! character pictured on a candle?" asks Knowall John McIntosh of Dundee.

Well, here's how it can be done....

Cut out the picture of your character from SMASH! and hold it round the candle. Heat it all round over the fire, then leave it for a few minutes.

Now carefully remove the picture, and there is your character on the candle.



Solution to last week's 'Jail break puzzle ...

The dotted line shows how to escape from Cell "X" to Cell "Y" visiting each cell only once.

HERE'S a cheeky challenge to try out on your parents.

Ask them if they can balance a match on a glass by its head. It won't take long before they give up, but you'll get plenty of giggles watching them try.

Now it's your turn....

Balance the match first across two glasses. Now strike another match and light the head of the balanced match. Blow it out almost immediately and take away the second glass. Your match will stay balanced by its head.

FREE! STAMP COLLECTORS OUTFIT

Including
- ★ STAMP IDENTIFIER
- ★ SURPRISE PACKET OF FOREIGN STAMPS
- ★ STAMP ALBUM
- ★ TRANSPARENT ENVELOPES
- ★ PRIZE SET OF 9 HUNGARIAN STAMPS
- ★ MAGNIFYING GLASS

Just send us your name and address and enclose 6d. for postage. Our famous discount pictorial approvals will accompany each free outfit.

Please tell your parents you are answering this advertisement

Please send Free Gift and Approvals as advertised to:

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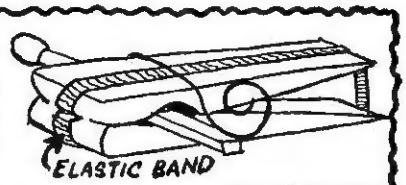
THE BRIDGNORTH STAMP CO., LTD., (Dept. P3), BRIDGNORTH, SHROPSHIRE

PEG GUN



Here's how to make a powerful gun that fires matchstick bullets in as many seconds as it takes you to read this.

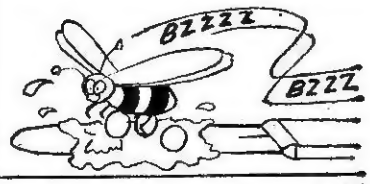
Loop an elastic band lengthways over a clothes peg as my drawing shows.

Load your matchstick lengthways, taking the end of the elastic into the jaws of the peg with it.

To fire, take aim at your target along the peg-top and press the ends together.

But here comes the warning ... DO NOT POINT IT AT PEOPLE!

I eat my peas with honey
I have done it all my life;
They do taste kind of funny,
But it keeps them on the knife.



FREE!

25 NATURE STAMPS

To get this fabulous free gift of stamps showing animals, birds, flowers, etc., together with a selection of Approvals, just fill in the coupon below and enclose 4d. for postage.

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111 different stamps! 1/-

Giant collection from all over the world provides many hours of fun and interest. Includes 5 WINSTON CHURCHILL gold inscribed commemoratives; Mauritius, Antigua, Barbados & other scarce colonies. MALAYSIA fine mint set of 5 Flowers: Kelantan, Trengganu, Johore. RWANDA magnificent POPE PAUL special issue. Many other fascinating and unusual items from all over the world. Grand total 111 all different stamps. Worth 5/9, yours for only 1/- to introduce famous approval service. (Stamps sent for 14 days inspection. Buy what you want, return the rest.)

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50, DENMARK HILL
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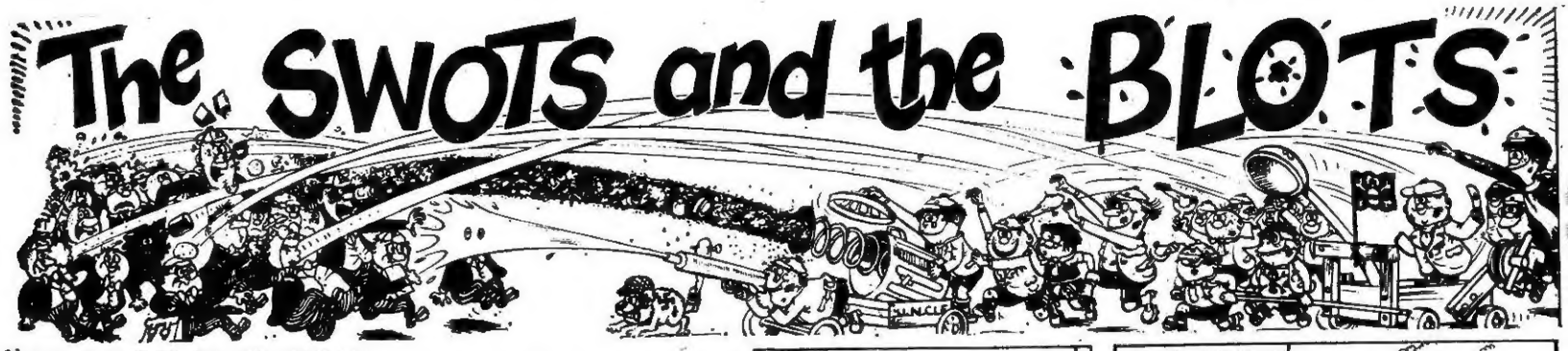
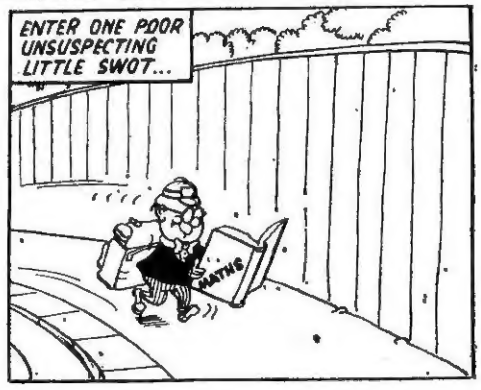
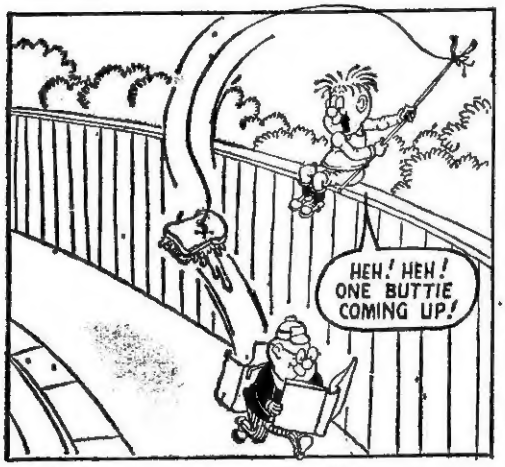
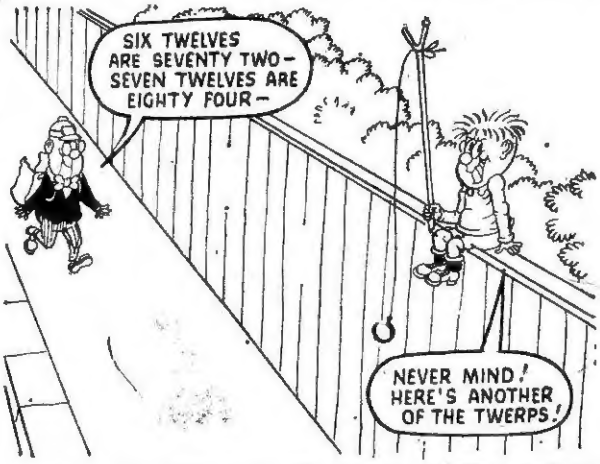
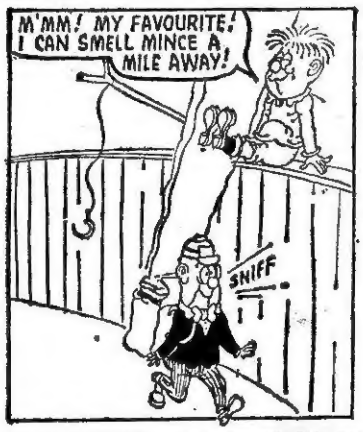
The SWOTS and the BLOTS

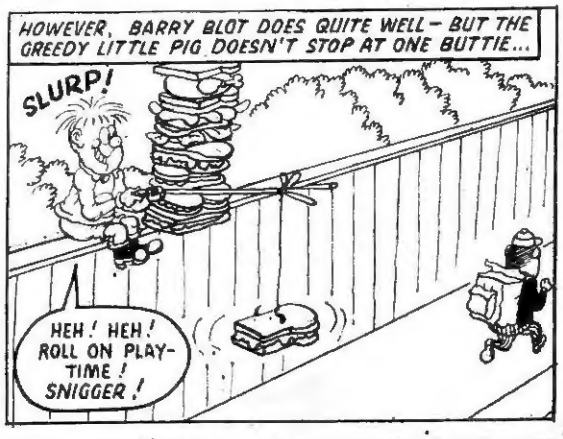


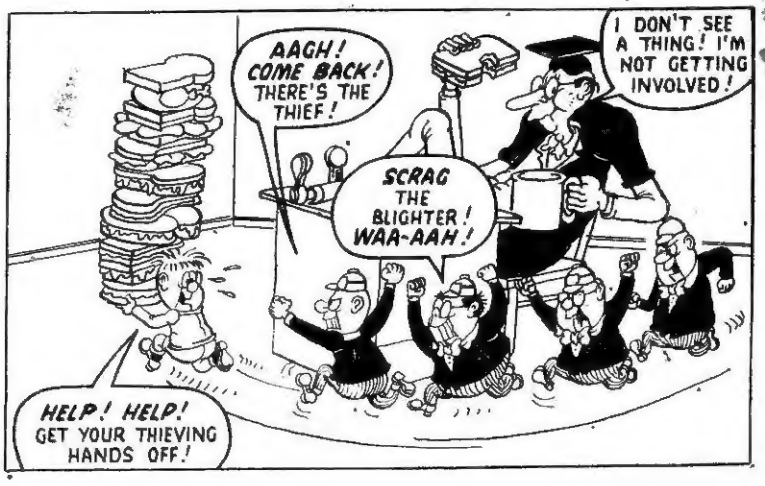




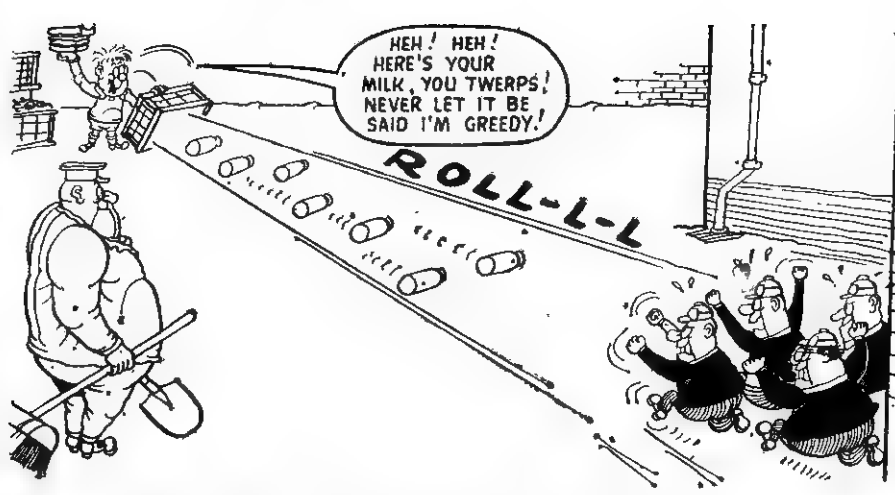


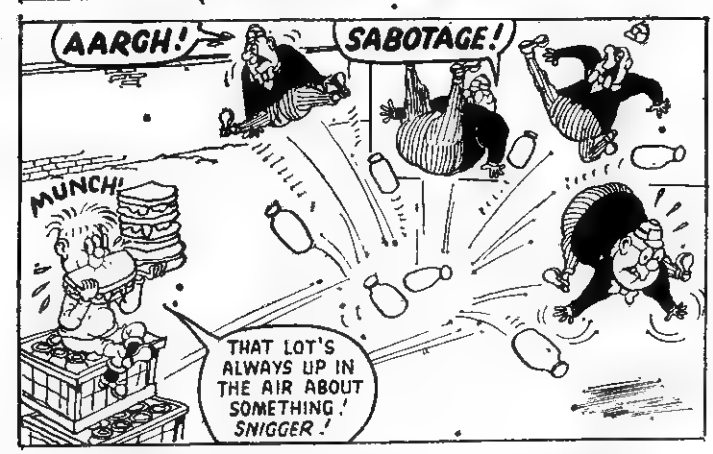






THEY'RE MINE – MINE – ALL MINE! HANDS OFF!
ZOOM

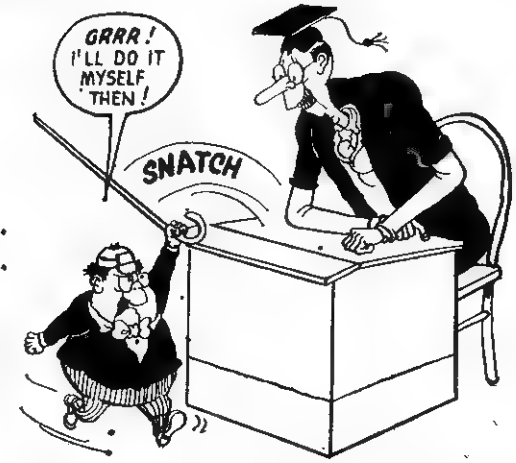

HEH! HEH! HERE'S YOUR MILK, YOU TWERPS! NEVER LET IT BE SAID I'M GREEDY!
ROLL-L-L

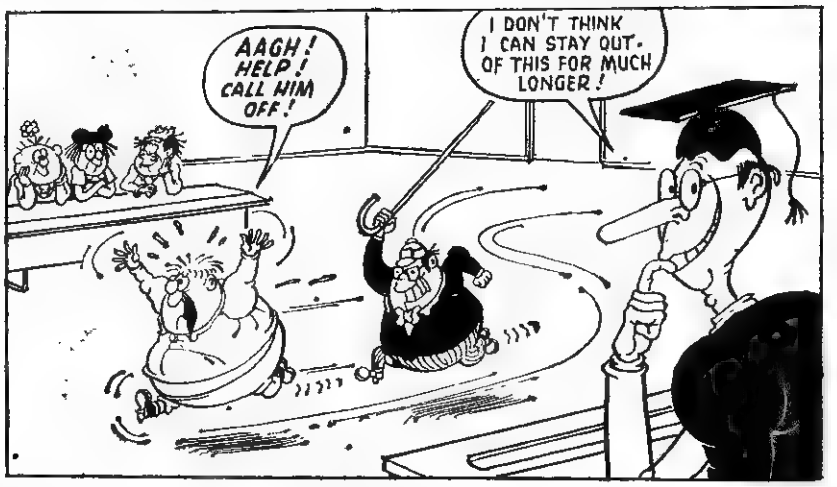

AARGH!
SABOTAGE!
MUNCH!
THAT LOT'S ALWAYS UP IN THE AIR ABOUT SOMETHING! SNIGGER!

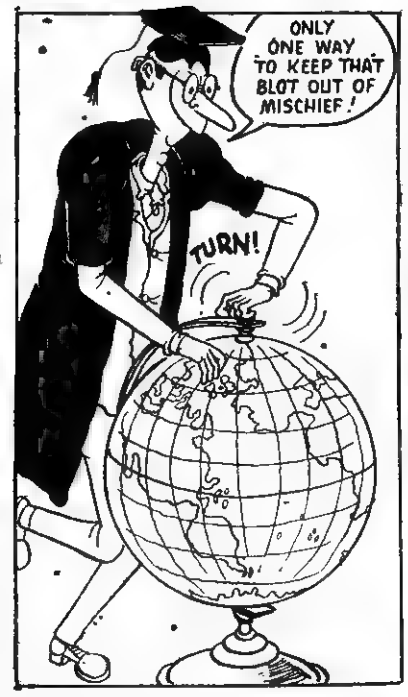
BURP! THAT WAS SMASHING! I'M BATTY ABOUT BUTTIES! BELCH!
AAGH! HE'S EATEN THE LOT!
HASN'T LEFT A CRUMB!

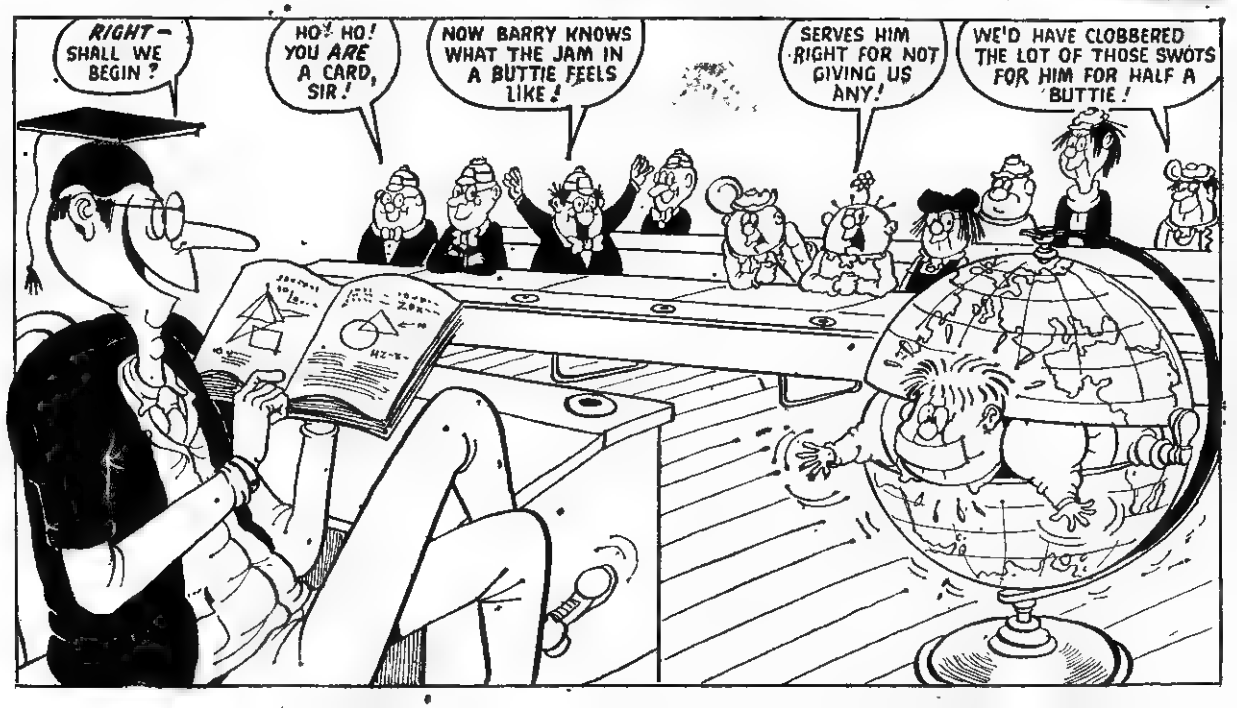
GRRR! THE GREEDY LITTLE PIG ATE EVERY ONE, SIR! TAN HIS HIDE!

I CAN'T! I DIDN'T SEE A THING!


GRRR! I'LL DO IT MYSELF THEN!
SNATCH


AAGH! HELP! CALL HIM OFF!
I DON'T THINK I CAN STAY OUT OF THIS FOR MUCH LONGER!


ONLY ONE WAY TO KEEP THAT BLOT OUT OF MISCHIEF!
TURN!


RIGHT – SHALL WE BEGIN?
HO! HO! YOU ARE A CARD, SIR!
NOW BARRY KNOWS WHAT THE JAM IN A BUTTIE FEELS LIKE!
SERVES HIM RIGHT FOR NOT GIVING US ANY!
WE'D HAVE CLOBBERED THE LOT OF THOSE SWOTS FOR HIM FOR HALF A BUTTIE!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

BATTLES... "THE HORDE OF HUMANOIDS!"

WE HOPE YOU REMEMBER WHERE WE LEFT OFF LAST ISH, BECAUSE WE HATE THESE LONG EXPLANATIONS! BUT, FOR THOSE OF YOU CARELESS ENOUGH TO HAVE MISSED **SMASH** 52, HERE'S THE SCOOP... DOCTOR BRUCE BANNER CHANGED INTO THE **HULK** TO PROTECT HIS NUCLEAR INVENTION FROM BEING CAPTURED BY A STRANGE POWERFUL **HUMANOID!** BUT, DUE TO AN IRONIC QUIRK OF FATE, BANNER HIMSELF WAS LATER JAILED FOR TRYING TO SABOTAGE HIS OWN INVENTION! AND NOW, LET'S **GO...!**

DID YOU BRING ME THE **TRANQUILISER PILLS** I ASKED FOR, GENERAL?

SURE, BANNER! AND, WITH THE EVIDENCE WE HAVE AGAINST YOU NOW, YOU'RE GOING TO **NEED** THEM!

BUT, I TELL YOU I'M **NOT** A SPY! WHY WOULD I TRY TO RUN OFF WITH MY **OWN** INVENTION! I WAS JUST TRYING TO **SAVE** IT!

WHAT'S THE USE? THE ONLY WAY TO CLEAR MYSELF IS TO ADMIT THAT I'M REALLY THE **HULK!** --AND I COULD **NEVER** DO THAT!

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YOU SURE ARE A **COOL** ONE, BANNER! BUT, THOSE TRANQUILISERS WON'T KEEP YOU FROM **BREAKING** WHEN YOU STAND TRIAL FOR **TREASON!**

I WONDER WHAT HE'D SAY IF HE KNEW THE **REAL** REASON I TAKE THESE PILLS IS TO TRY TO KEEP CALM-- SO THAT I WON'T CHANGE INTO-- THE **HULK?!!**

A SHORT TIME LATER...

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT BRUCE IS A TRAITOR! I COULDN'T **LOVE** HIM AS I DO IF HE WERE! I JUST **COULDN'T!**

YOU'LL GET YOUR **PROOF** AT THE TRIAL, BETTY, AND THEN PERHAPS YOU'LL LOOK AT **ME** IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT!

WITH BANNER OUT OF THE WAY, I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO WIN HER HEART!

MEANWHILE, MILES AWAY IN A CAREFULLY HIDDEN LABORATORY, A STRANGE, GREEN-SKINNED MAN KNOWN AS THE **THE LEADER** RECEIVES A REPORT FROM ONE OF HIS VAST NETWORK OF SECRET ESPIONAGE AGENTS...

THIS IS THE **CHAMELEON!** BRUCE BANNER IS UNDER ARREST! THE ARMY STILL PLANS TO TEST HIS NUCLEAR DEVICE ON A DESERTED ISLE! THAT IS ALL!

GOOD! THEN I **STILL** HAVE A CHANCE TO LEARN THE SECRET OF BANNER'S INVENTION! MY HUMANOIDS WILL ATTACK IT **AGAIN!**

BUT, THE THING I **MOST** WANT TO DO IS-- LEARN MORE ABOUT THE **HULK!** INASMUCH AS **HIS** SKIN ALSO IS GREEN, THEN **HE** MIGHT BE A VICTIM OF A GAMMA RAY EXPLOSION, AS **I** WAS! AND, WHERE THE RAYS INCREASED MY **BRAIN POWER**, THEY REACTED DIFFERENTLY WITH HIM-- INCREASING HIS **STRENGTH!**

I MUST STUDY HIM!

THUS, WHILE THE MYSTERIOUS **LEADER** WONDERS ABOUT THE **HULK**, WE TURN OUR ATTENTION TO THE NATION'S CAPITOL, WHERE DR ROBERT BRUCE BANNER, ONE OF AMERICA'S TOP ATOMIC SCIENTISTS, IS UNDER INVESTIGATION, ON SUSPICION OF **TREASON!**

DR BANNER, AS YOUR LAWYER, I MUST TELL YOU THAT I **CANNOT** HELP YOU IF YOU WON'T GIVE ME ALL THE FACTS!

BUT I **CAN'T** TELL YOU ANY MORE! I'M **INNOCENT!** I'M **NOT** A SPY! BUT-- I DON'T KNOW HOW TO **PROVE** IT!

NOT WITHOUT ADMITTING THAT I'M THE HULK!

THEN YOU HAVEN'T MUCH CHANCE...!

BUT SUDDENLY, AN EAGER TEENAGER ENTERS...

RICK! WHAT ARE **YOU** DOING HERE?

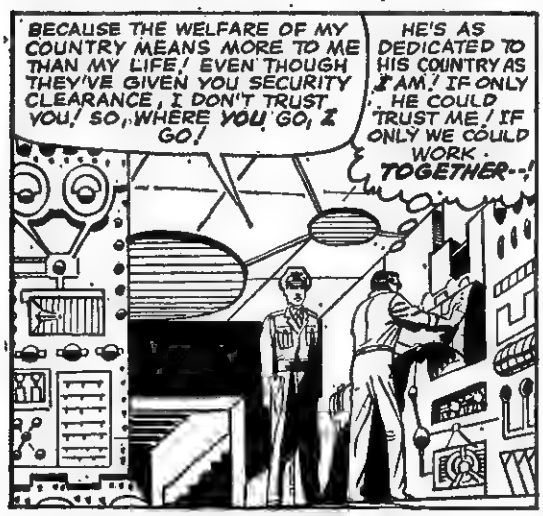
WHAT KIND OF QUESTION IS **THAT,** DOC! YOU'RE IN A **JAM,** AREN'T YA?

THEN, EN THE TWO ARE ALONE...
WHY ON'T YOU NFESS THALLY THE ULK, DOC? HEN THEY'D KNOW YOU'RE NOT A SPY!
I CAN'T, RICK! NO ONE BUT YOU MUST EVER KNOW MY SECRET! THINK WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE WORLD LEARNED OF IT--
HOSTILE NATIONS WOULD STOP AT NOTHING TO CAPTURE ME-- AND TO LEARN THE SECRET OF MY TRANSFORMATION! THINK WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF OTHERS COULD BE CREATED--OTHERS LIKE THE HULK!
AND WHEN YOU'RE DOC BANNER, THEY COULD CAPTURE YOU, HUH? I GET IT!
THE ONLY ONE I COULD EVER CONFESS TO IS SOMEONE WHO WOULD NEVER REVEAL MY DREAD SECRET! BUT--I DON'T DARE TAKE THE CHANCE!
SAY! THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA!
RICK! WHERE ARE YOU GOING--?? WAIT!!
COOL IT, DOC! I OWE YOU PLENTY FOR SAVIN' MY LIFE THAT TIME--AND HERE'S WHERE I PAY PART OF IT BACK!*
* BRUCE BANNER FIRST BECAME THE HULK BY SAVING RICK JONES FROM A GAMMA RAY EXPLOSION, TAKING THE BOMB'S IMPACT HIMSELF!
MINUTES LATER...
SON, NOBODY CAN SEE HIM WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT! YOU'RE JUST WASTING YOUR TIME!
THERE ARE FOUR AMBASSADORS AND SIX CONGRESS-MEN WHO'VE BEEN WAITING SINCE EARLY THIS MORNING...!
I KNOW ALL THAT, BUT MAYBE THIS WILL MAKE YOU CHANGE YOUR MINDS!
A TOP-PRIORITY AVENGERS I.D. CARD!!
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO, BOY?
AND SO...
--AND THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY, SIR! DR BANNER IS GUILTY OF NOTHING BUT DEVOTING HIS ENTIRE LIFE TO HIS COUNTRY!
IT WAS WISE OF YOU TO TELL ME THIS, MY BOY!
AND DR BANNER IS RIGHT! IT WOULD NOT BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO MAKE HIS SECRET KNOWN!
BUT WHAT ABOUT HIM? WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO HIM, SIR?
HIS IS ONE OF OUR GREATEST SCIENTIFIC BRAINS! IT MUST NOT BE LOST TO US!
IT WILL TAKE ALL THE POWER AND PRESTIGE OF MY OFFICE... BUT I THINK I CAN INTERCEDE ON HIS BEHALF!
GOSH! I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, SIR--!
SAY NOTHING, SON! WE SHALL SHARE THIS SECRET! AND CONVEY MY GOOD WISHES TO THE AVENGERS WHEN NEXT THEY MEET!
EXACTLY ONE HOUR LATER, MAJOR GLEN TALBOT APPEARS, LIVID WITH RAGE...
YOU'VE BEEN CLEARED! THE ORDER JUST CAME FROM THE PENTAGON ITSELF! I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU HOODWINKED THEM, BANNER, BUT--!
IT WAS RICK! HE DID IT SOMEHOW! BUT, HOW LONG WILL MY FREEDOM LAST?
WAIT! THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT TO TALK TO!
WE HAVEN'T TIME! YOU'RE ORDERED TO ASTRA ISLAND IMMEDIATELY--TO CONDUCT THE FIRST TESTS OF YOUR NEW ATOMIC DEVICE!
AND, UPON THE SMALL, NOW-DESERTED ISLE, ONE OF DR BRUCE BANNER'S GREATEST INVENTIONS STANDS! KNOWN AS THE WORLD'S FIRST NUCLEAR ABSORBATRON, IT WAS BUILT TO ABSORB THE IMPACT OF AN ATOM BOMB BLAST, PROVIDING THE PERFECT DEFENCE AGAINST ATOMIC ATTACK!
I WON'T LET YOU OUT OF MY SIGHT THIS TIME, BANNER! YOU WON'T HAVE A CHANCE TO SIGNAL THE HULK TO DO YOUR DIRTY WORK FOR YOU!
I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO CONVINCE TALBOT THAT I'M NOT A SPY WHO USES THE HULK TO HELP ME!
BUT, BEFORE BANNER AND THE SECURITY OFFICER CAN REACH THE ISLE, THE LEADER HAS ALREADY PUT HIS OWN SINISTER PLAN INTO OPERATION...
WHERE ONE HUMANOID FAILED TO CAPTURE BANNER'S INVENTION LAST TIME,* A HORDE OF THEM MUST SUCCEED NOW! THEY WILL REACH ASTRA ISLE AT JUST THE RIGHT MOMENT...
* REMEMBER LAST WEEK'S SMASH?
MY HUMANOIDS ARE THE PERFECT FIGHTING MACHINES! WITH THEIR PLASTIC COMPOSITION BODIES, ALMOST NOTHING CAN HARM THEM!

THEY NEED NO AIR TO BREATHE--NO FOOD--AND NO REST--FOR THEY ARE TIRELESS!

AND, WITH MY SPECTROSCOPIC TRANCEIVER, I CAN SEE EVERYTHING THAT MY HUMANOIDS SEE! I CANNOT FAIL THIS TIME!

MEANWHILE, NOT SUSPECTING THAT A HORDE OF HUMANOIDS ARE SURROUNDING THE ISLE BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE SEA, MAJOR GLEN TALBOT AND BRUCE BANNER ARE LANDED NEAR THE ABSORBATRON BY A SPECIALLY-DISPATCHED LIGHT CRUISER...
AS SOON AS YOU'RE SURE THE ABSORBATRON IS READY, WE'LL SIGNAL THE CRUISER AND AN ATOMIC BLAST WILL BE SET OFF! IF YOUR DEVICE DOESN'T WORK, WE'LL BOTH PAY WITH OUR LIVES!
IT'S MY DUTY TO BE HERE! THE MACHINE IS MY INVENTION--ONLY I CAN OPERATE IT PROPERLY! BUT, WHY DO YOU INSIST ON RISKING YOUR LIFE?


BECAUSE THE WELFARE OF MY COUNTRY MEANS MORE TO ME THAN MY LIFE! EVEN THOUGH THEY'VE GIVEN YOU SECURITY CLEARANCE, I DON'T TRUST YOU! SO, WHERE YOU GO, I GO!
HE'S AS DEDICATED TO HIS COUNTRY AS I AM! IF ONLY HE COULD TRUST ME! IF ONLY WE COULD WORK TOGETHER--!

HOLD IT! I WANT TO KNOW WHAT THOSE DIALS DO BEFORE YOU TURN THEM!!

I WANT TO BE SURE YOU'RE NOT CALLING THE HULK IN SOME WAY! ...AS YOU'VE DONE BEFORE!
I'VE NEVER CALLED HIM! I FEAR HIM MORE THAN YOU DO!

YOU LIE! WHEREVER HE'S APPEARED, HE'S NEVER BEEN FAR FROM YOU! AND YOU'RE NEVER AROUND WHEN HE'S ON A RAMPAGE! I KNOW THAT THE TWO OF YOU WORK TO-TOGETHER--YOU MUST!
NO! WE DON'T! I HATE HIM! CAN'T YOU SEE--??!

I'M GETTING TOO EXCITED! MY NERVES ARE TREMBLING! I CAN FEEL ANOTHER CHANGE COMING ON! BUT--NOT NOW--IT MUSTN'T BE NOW!

MY TRANQUILISER PILLS--ALL GONE! THAT MEANS NOTHING CAN STOP IT FROM HAPPENING!

I'VE GOT TO RUN! THE MAJOR WON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THE HULK! PERHAPS THERE'S STILL TIME--!!
STOP!

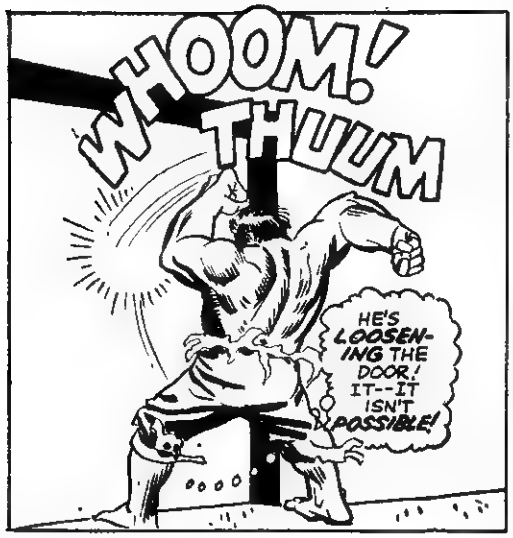
TOO LATE! CAN'T CONTROL IT ANY LONGER! IT--IT'S HAPPENING--!!
BANNER! WHATEVER YOU'RE UP TO, YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH IT! THERE'S NO WAY FOR YOU TO ESCAPE FROM THIS ISLE! BANNER! WHERE ARE YOU??

THERE IS NO BANNER--!!!

THERE'S ONLY--THE HULK!!
WHAT'S THAT NOISE? THAT HEAVY BREATHING?? IT SOUNDS LIKE--!

THE HULK!! THEN--BANNER DID MANAGE TO CONTACT YOU!!
I'VE GOT TO ESCAPE! A PISTOL BULLET WON'T STOP HIM!

THIS CEMENT LEAD-LINED BUNKER IS BUILT TO WITHSTAND AN H-BOMB BLAST! IF I CAN JUST GET THE TEN-TON DOOR DOWN IN TIME--!
LOOKS LIKE I'LL JUST MAKE IT!


WHOOM! THUUM
HE'S LOOSENING THE DOOR! IT--IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!

BUT, THE CLOUDED BRAIN OF THE HULK SOON LOSES INTEREST IN THE TRAPPED MAJOR! SLOWLY HE TURNS, LOOKING ABOUT HIM--TRYING TO REMEMBER WHERE HE IS--AND WHAT HE'S DOING THERE...
IT'S BANNER'S FAULT! HE BROUGHT ME HERE! BUT, WHERE IS HE??

AND, WHILE THE SLOW-THINKING HULK FORGETS THAT HE AND BRUCE BANNER ARE ONE AND THE SAME, THE LEADER'S HUMANOIDS APPROACH THE ISLE...
THEY ARE HEADED RIGHT TOWARDS BANNER'S INVENTION! THIS TIME THEY SHALL NOT FAIL ME!

I'M LUCKIER THAN I DARED HOPE TO BE! THE HULK IS THERE, TOO! THIS IS MY CHANCE TO CAPTURE HIM! I MUST LEARN HIS SECRET!

THUS, TEMPORARILY IGNORING THE ABSORBATRON, THE LEADER ORDERS HIS MINDLESS HUMANOIDS TO ATTACK THE ONLY OTHER LIVING HUMAN WHO POSSESSES GREEN SKIN!
HE MUST BE SEIZED AND BROUGHT TO ME ALIVE! YOU HAVE THE POWER TO DO IT!
MAN! I'M BEING ATTACKED! AT LAST I HAVE SOMETHING TO SMASH!!

THEN, WITH A SAVAGE ROAR OF FURY, THE STRONGEST MORTAL TO WALK THE EARTH GOES ON AN UNCONTROLLABLE RAMPAGE!!!
NO ONE CAN BEAT THE HULK!!

FLEXING HIS MIGHTY MUSCLES, USING POWER WHICH WE CAN ONLY WONT AT, THE GREEN GOLIATH SHAKES OFF HIS ATTACKERS LIKE A MASTIFF SHAKES THE RAIN!

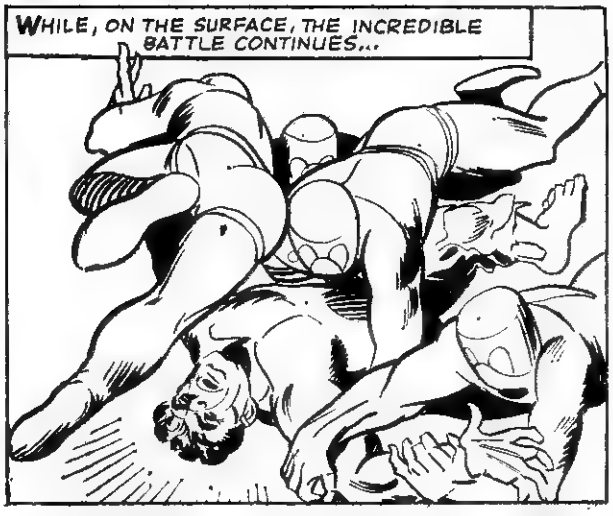
BUT, THOUGH THEY CANNOT MATCH HIS AWESOME STRENGTH, THEIR SUPPLE PLASTIC BODIES ARE IMPERVIOUS TO PAIN OR TO INJURY, AND SO THE HUMANOIDS ATTACK AGAIN AND AGAIN...

...WHILE THE LEADER WATCHES WITH COLD, UNBLINKING EYES--TRANSMITTING THEIR ORDERS BY SHEER MENTAL POWER...
YOU MUST NOT STOP! HE CANNOT HARM YOU! YOU MUST CONQUER HIM!

MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE CONCRETE BUNKER, MAJOR TALBOT WORKS FEVERISHLY TO PROTECT THE ABSORBATRON...
I'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE NOTHING CAN DAMAGE THE NUCLEAR DEVICE! THESE CONTROLS SHOULD DO IT--!

AS A SERIES OF ELECTRONIC BUTTONS ARE PRESSED, THE ENTIRE COMPLEX MACHINE IS SLOWLY LOWERED INTO AN UNDERGROUND SHELTER AND ENCLOSED WITH TITANIUM SHIELDING!

ONLY THEN DOES THE DEDICATED OFFICER CONTACT THE WAITING CRUISER...
THE HULK IS TRAPPED HERE ON THE ISLE! THE ABSORBATRON IS IN NO IMMEDIATE DANGER! CONTACT GENERAL ROSS FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS!


WHILE, ON THE SURFACE, THE INCREDIBLE BATTLE CONTINUES...

NEVER BEFORE HAS THE HULK STRUCK A FOE WHO COULD NOT BE INJURED--WHOSE BODY, MADE OF A RESILIENT PLASTIC, COULD SNAP BACK TO NORMAL AS SOON AS THE BLOW HAD PASSED...!

NEVER BEFORE HAS HE FOUGHT CREATURES AS TIRELESS AS HE--AS IMPERVIOUS TO PAIN AS HE--!!
THEY'RE NOT ALIVE! THEY'RE JUST SOME KINDS OF FIGHTING MACHINES!!
NOTE: THE THOUGHT WHICH THE HULK JUST EXPRESSED, TOOK A FULL FOUR MINUTES TO REACH FRUITION IN HIS CLOUDED BRAIN! BUT THEN, HE LABORIOUSLY ACHIEVES ANOTHER THOUGHT...

I'LL FINISH THEM ALL AT ONCE BY SMASHING INTO SOMETHING--!!
WHROOM!

BUT STILL HIS SLUGGISH BRAIN CANNOT COMPREHEND THAT THEIR BODIES ARE GAMMAFIED PLASTIC, CAPABLE OF ABSORBING ANY IMPACT WITHOUT CAUSING THEM ANY HARM!
GO DOWN!! FALL!! NOTHING STANDS UP TO THE HULK! YOU CAN'T FIGHT ME! NO ONE CAN FIGHT ME!!

NEXT, THE HULK RESORTS TO HIS INDESCRIBABLY POWERFUL LEG MUSCLES, ATTEMPTING TO LEAP INTO THE AIR AND THEN COME CRASHING DOWN AGAIN! BUT...
THAT'S IT, MY HUMANOIDS! HOLD HIM! THE LEADER IS PROUD OF YOU!

SOONER OR LATER HE WILL REALIZE HE CANNOT HURT YOU, AND THEN HIS CONFUSED BRAIN WILL PANIC AT THE THOUGHT!

EVEN NOW HE SEES HIS FISTS BOUNCING HARMLESSLY OFF YOU, TIME AND AGAIN! THE HELPLESS RAGE, THE FRUSTRATION HE MUST FEEL, WILL SOON BE MORE THAN HIS PRIMITIVE BRAIN CAN BEAR--!!

LIKE A GREAT, MINDLESS, RAMPAGING BEAST, HE'LL RESORT TO ANYTHING BEFORE HE ADMITS DEFEAT! NOW HE'S HURLING A GIANT BOULDER AT ONE OF MY HUMANOIDS--!

HIS BRAIN MUST BE SEETHING AT THE SIGHT OF THAT POWERFUL OBJECT HARMLESSLY BOUNCING OFF MY INHUMAN ARMY AND RICHOCHETTING BACK TO HIM!

KRAKK!
WHY WON'T THEY FALL?? WHY CAN'T I SMASH THEM?? WHY? WHY??

MEANTIME, HAVING CONTACTED GENERAL ROSS, THE CRUISER AGAIN COMMUNICATES WITH THE WAITING SECURITY OFFICER...
WE'VE BEEN ORDERED TO LAND A LARGE FIGHTING FORCE ON THE ISLE WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED! CAN YOU HOLD OUT, MAJOR?
OF COURSE! I'M IN NO IMMEDIATE DANGER! BUT, DON'T LET THE HULK ESCAPE!

THUS, WE TAKE OUR LEAVE OF THE HULK AND HIS HOSTILE HORDE OF ATTACKERS UNTIL NEXT ISH, WHEN THE NEWEST CHAPTER OF OUR SUPER-SENSATIONAL SERIAL WILL DAZZLE YOUR EYES, AND STARTLE YOUR SENSES! NEVER HAS A NEW FANTASY SERIES BEEN SO WILDLY ACCLAIMED! NEVER HAS A COMIC MAG CHARACTER BEEN SO WIDELY DISCUSSED! AND NEVER HAVE WE BEEN SO GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR MAKING THE HULK ONE OF THE STARS IN THIS, THE BRIGHTEST POWER-HOUSE PERIOD OF COMICS!

NEWS FROM THE FLOOR OF 64

64 Long Acre, London, W.C.2.

We shan't say a word about it! We solemnly promise not to breathe one whisper in this column about the FREE gift that's tucked inside the pulsating pages of each collector-worthy copy of this week's POW! And if you're thinking that that leaves us with nothing more world-shaking to talk about than the budding hearts-and-flowers friendship between the THING and Alicia the blind daughter of the Puppet-Master then you should be reading "Robin" or "Story Time for Little Children"! Because we are now about to unveil an item of knock-you-down news that we've been saving up for such a quiet moment of togetherness as this! Commencing next week we're going to award a genuine, guaranteed non-radio-active

SPIDER-MAN TEE-SHIRT to the writer of every letter published in POW! You can say what you like about us but we're trying to prove we're not mean—even if we all go broke in the process!

✳ ✳ ✳

And having disclosed the details of that dramatic distribution-to-be you'll maybe pardon us if we now slip in a short, sharp commercial concerning our new Master-Magazine which is destined to cast a dark depressing shadow over all the competition in the comic field. There are now only two weeks to go.. before the magical moment when you can become the proud possessor of the first issue of FANTASTIC!—The paper with "X"-appeal! (If you don't like comics don't read our mags. But if you do like 'em, why read anything else?)*

** "X"-appeal means it's got the X-men in it!*

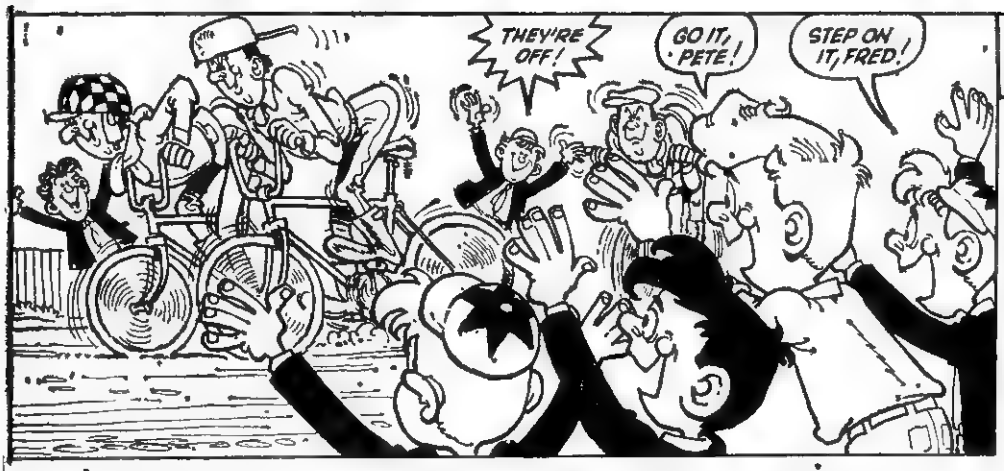
✳

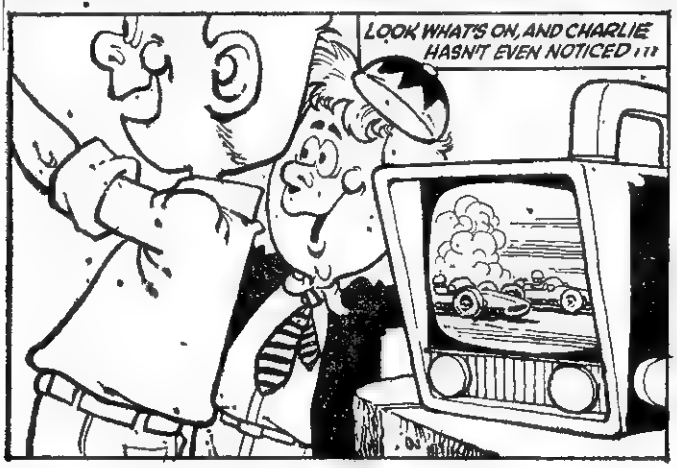
Meet Twenty Proud Power-Pack People.

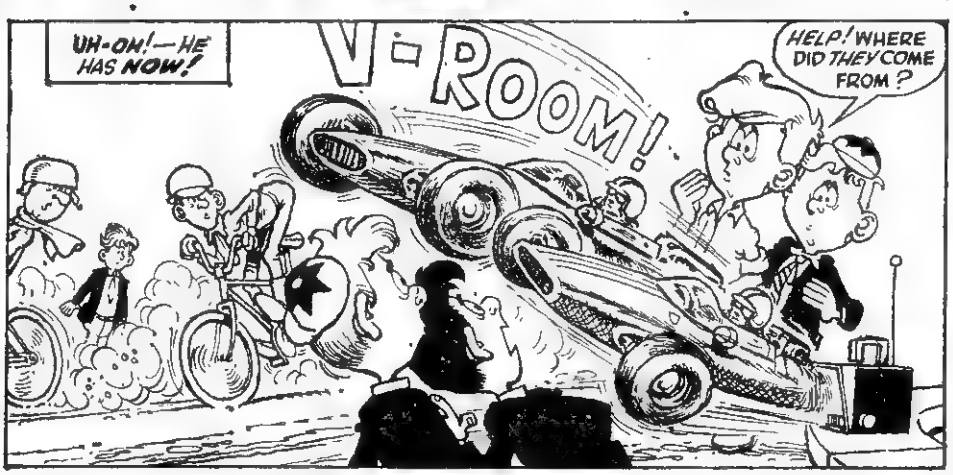
Noel Downey, Salford; C. Haycock, Warwick, Warwickshire; Richard Doran, Stenhousemuir, Scotland; Terry Fenn, Bethnal Green; Jackie Webster, Northampton; P. Trueman, Macclesfield, Cheshire; Trevor Morris, Knightwick; Paul Burrows, Auckland, New Zealand; Paul Petrovic, Harrogate, Yorks.; R. Cane, Mitcham, Surrey; Jim McLaren, Bradford, Yorks.; Martyn Ward, Leicester; Pat Griffin, Kilkenny, Eire; S. Williams, Preston, Lancs.; David Lord, Redcliffe-on-Trent, Nottingham; Alan Thompson, Sunderland; Keith Stevens, Emsworth, Hants.; Michael Burdon, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham; Martin Young, Sittingbourne, Kent; Paul Knobbs, Stoke-on-Trent.

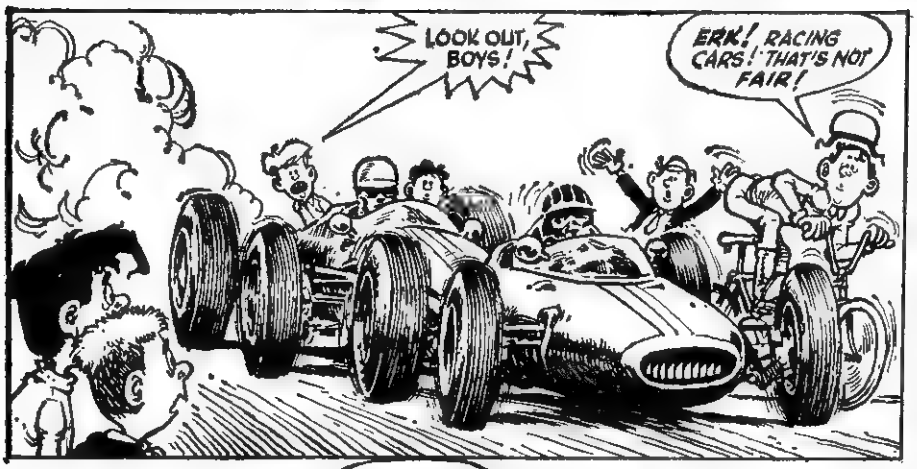
Charlie's Choice

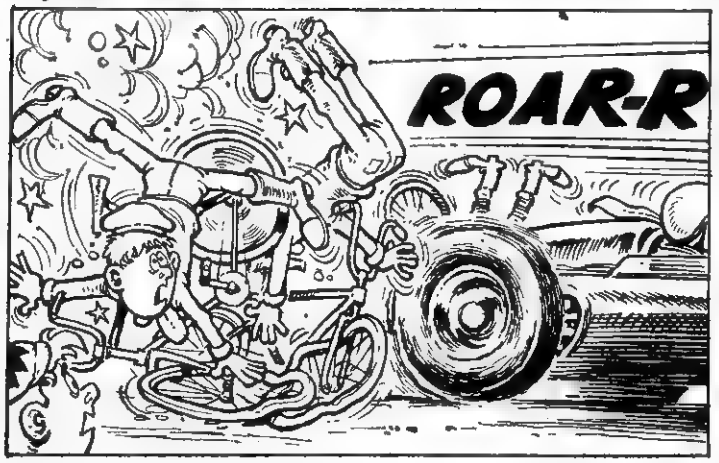
THE TV SET WITH A DIFFERENCE...

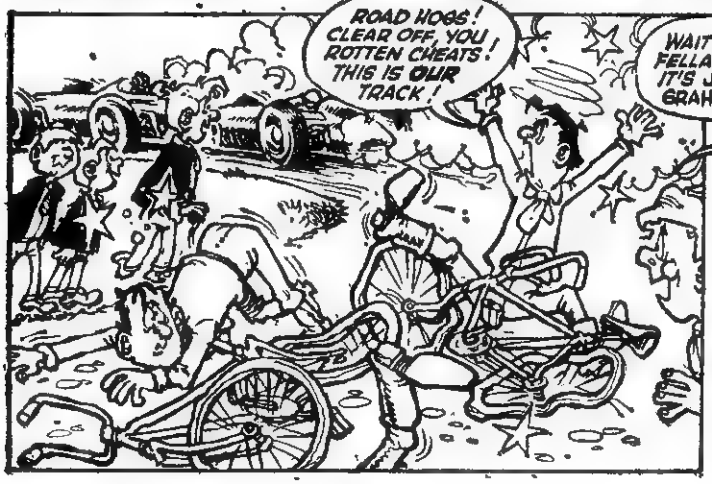


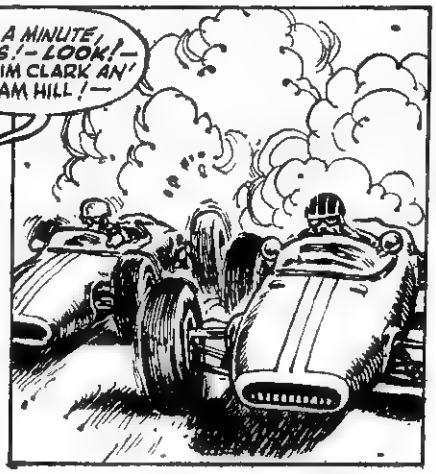


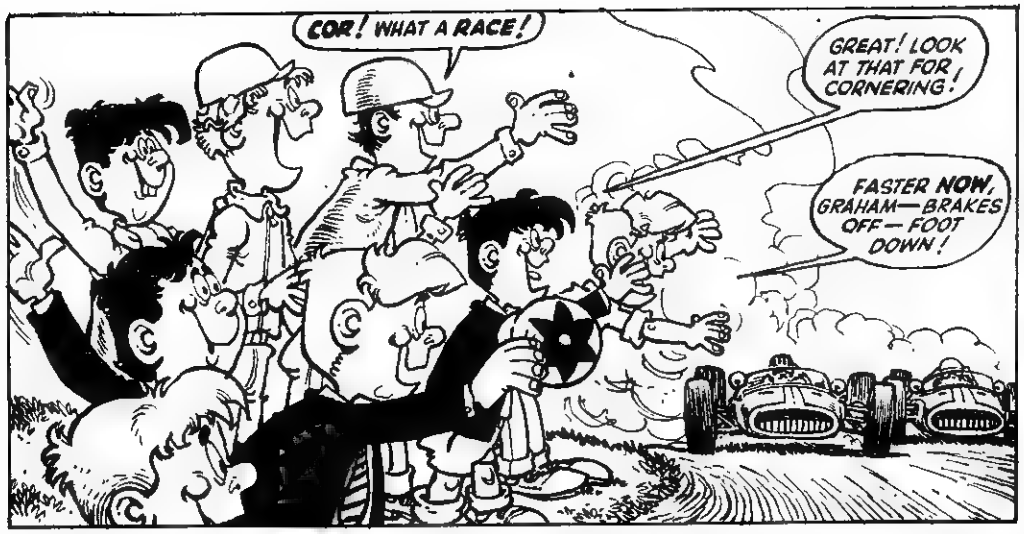




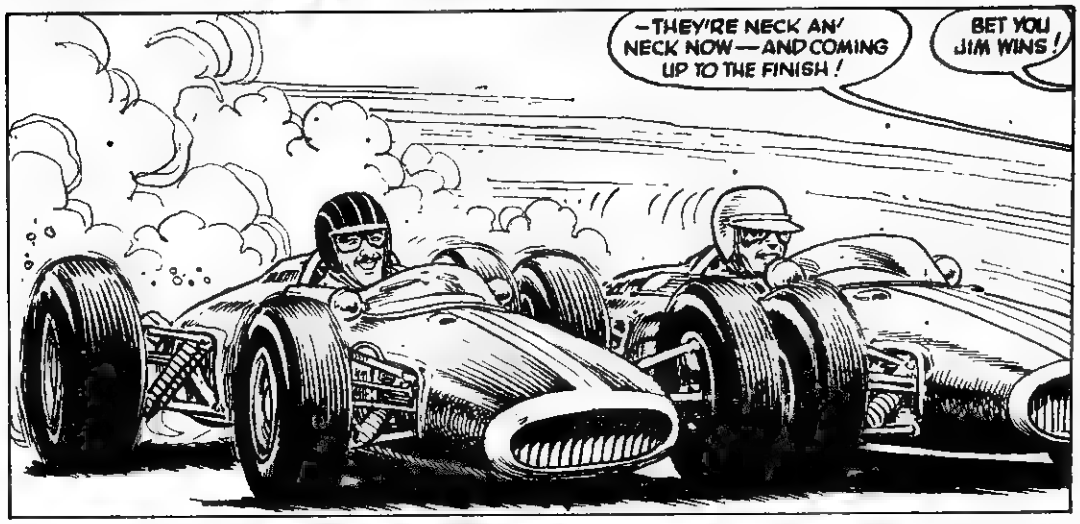




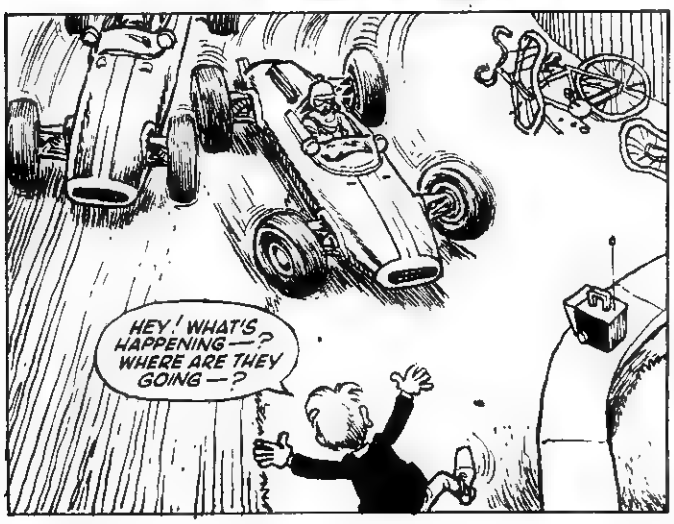


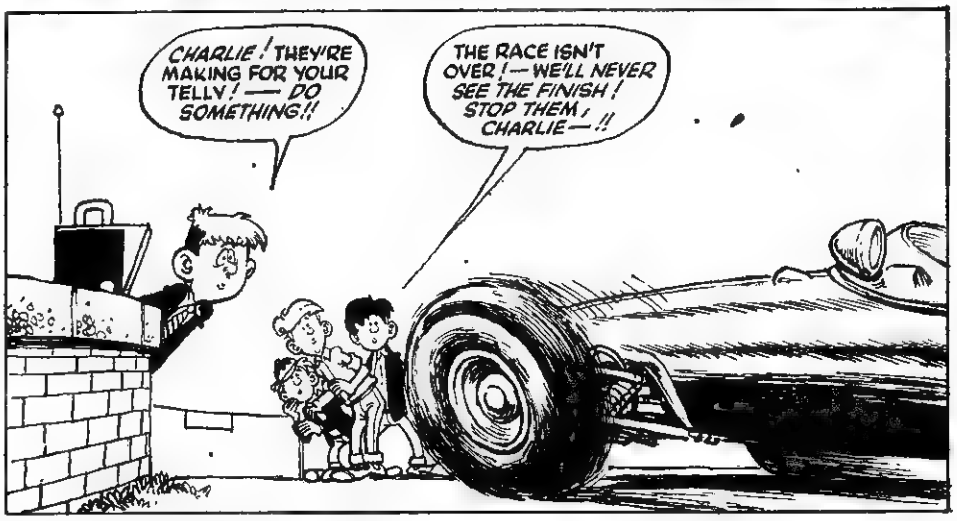

COR! WHAT A RACE!
GREAT! LOOK AT THAT FOR CORNERING!
FASTER NOW, GRAHAM—BRAKES OFF—FOOT DOWN!

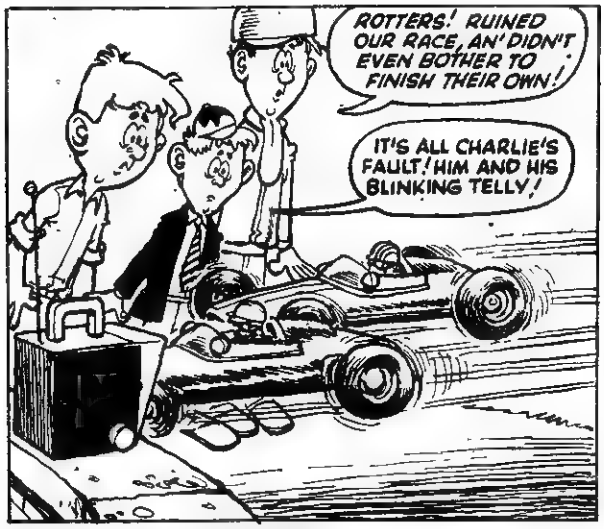
THAT WAS SOME TRICK YOU PULLED, CHARLIE—HOW DID YOU GET THEM OUT OF YOUR TELLY LIKE THAT?
NEVER MIND THAT—


—THEY'RE NECK AN' NECK NOW—AND COMING UP TO THE FINISH!
BET YOU JIM WINS!

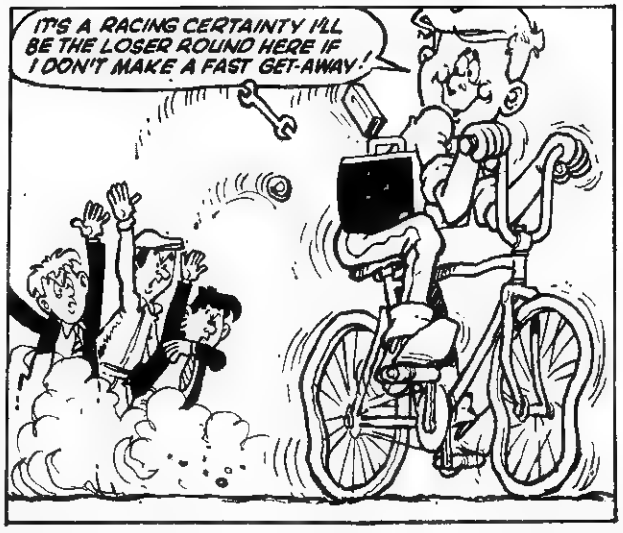
GARN! GRAHAM'S GOT IT IN THE BAG! JUST WAIT AN' SEE!
FINISH

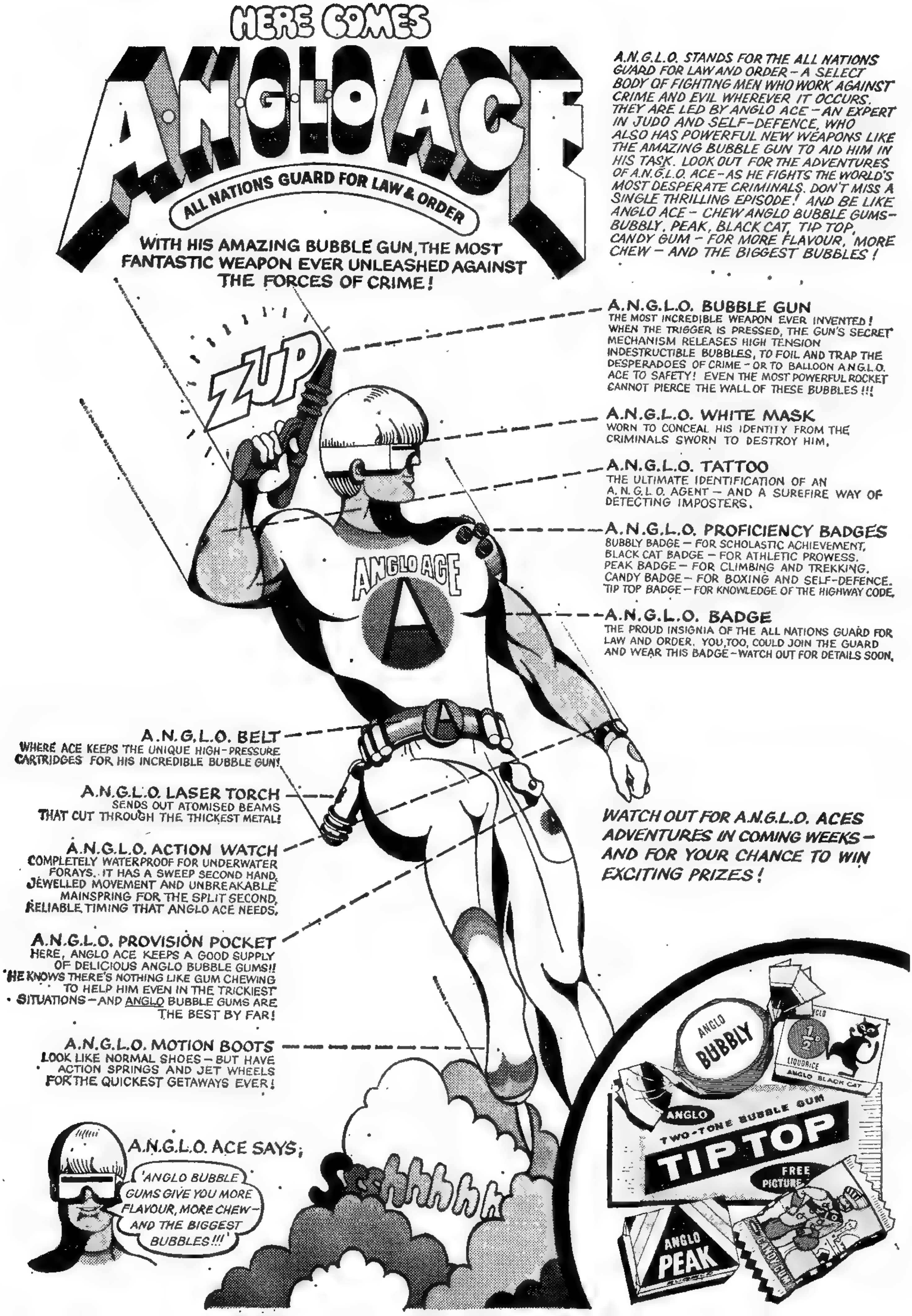

HEY! WHAT'S HAPPENING—? WHERE ARE THEY GOING—?


CHARLIE! THEY'RE MAKING FOR YOUR TELLY!—DO SOMETHING!!
THE RACE ISN'T OVER!—WE'LL NEVER SEE THE FINISH! STOP THEM, CHARLIE—!!

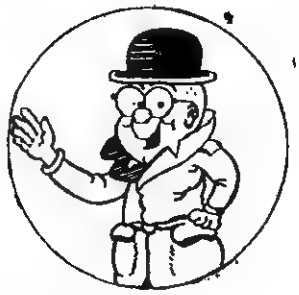

ROTTERS! RUINED OUR RACE, AN' DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TO FINISH THEIR OWN!
IT'S ALL CHARLIE'S FAULT! HIM AND HIS BLINKING TELLY!

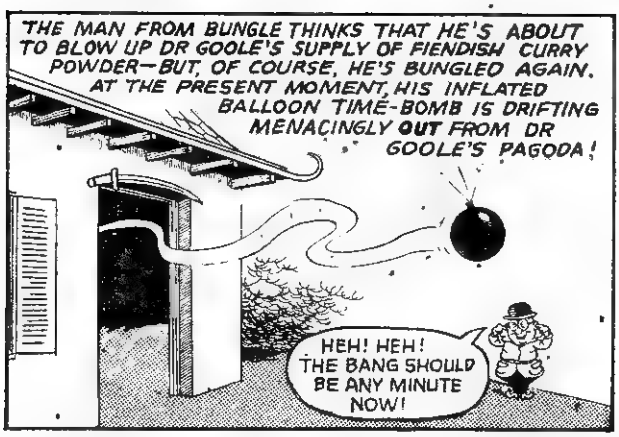
LET'S BASH HIM! — HEY! WHERE IS HE?
THERE HE GOES!

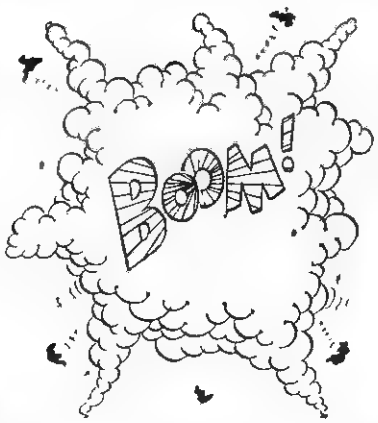

IT'S A RACING CERTAINTY I'LL BE THE LOSER ROUND HERE IF I DON'T MAKE A FAST GET-AWAY!

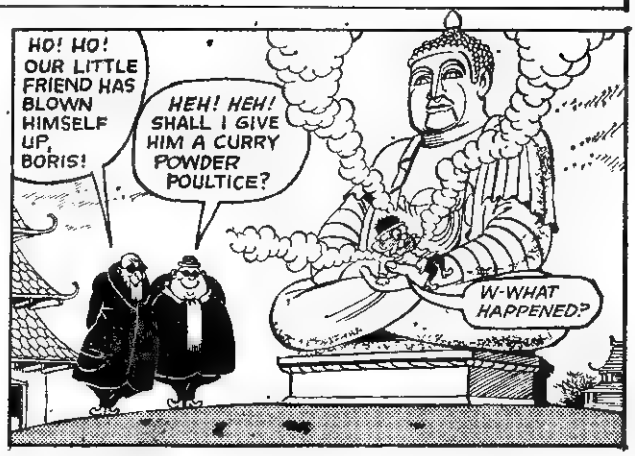

HERE COMES
A.N.G.L.O. ACE
ALL NATIONS GUARD FOR LAW & ORDER
WITH HIS AMAZING BUBBLE GUN, THE MOST FANTASTIC WEAPON EVER UNLEASHED AGAINST THE FORCES OF CRIME!
A.N.G.L.O. STANDS FOR THE ALL NATIONS GUARD FOR LAW AND ORDER – A SELECT BODY OF FIGHTING MEN WHO WORK AGAINST CRIME AND EVIL WHEREVER IT OCCURS. THEY ARE LED BY ANGLO ACE – AN EXPERT IN JUDO AND SELF-DEFENCE, WHO ALSO HAS POWERFUL NEW WEAPONS LIKE THE AMAZING BUBBLE GUN TO AID HIM IN HIS TASK. LOOK OUT FOR THE ADVENTURES OF A.N.G.L.O. ACE – AS HE FIGHTS THE WORLD'S MOST DESPERATE CRIMINALS. DON'T MISS A SINGLE THRILLING EPISODE! AND BE LIKE ANGLO ACE – CHEW ANGLO BUBBLE GUMS – BUBBLY, PEAK, BLACK CAT, TIP TOP, CANDY GUM – FOR MORE FLAVOUR, MORE CHEW – AND THE BIGGEST BUBBLES!
ZUP
A.N.G.L.O. BUBBLE GUN
THE MOST INCREDIBLE WEAPON EVER INVENTED! WHEN THE TRIGGER IS PRESSED, THE GUN'S SECRET MECHANISM RELEASES HIGH TENSION INDESTRUCTIBLE BUBBLES, TO FOIL AND TRAP THE DESPERADOES OF CRIME – OR TO BALLOON A.N.G.L.O. ACE TO SAFETY! EVEN THE MOST POWERFUL ROCKET CANNOT PIERCE THE WALL OF THESE BUBBLES!!!
A.N.G.L.O. WHITE MASK
WORN TO CONCEAL HIS IDENTITY FROM THE CRIMINALS SWORN TO DESTROY HIM.
A.N.G.L.O. TATTOO
THE ULTIMATE IDENTIFICATION OF AN A.N.G.L.O. AGENT – AND A SUREFIRE WAY OF DETECTING IMPOSTERS.
A.N.G.L.O. PROFICIENCY BADGES
BUBBLY BADGE – FOR SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT.
BLACK CAT BADGE – FOR ATHLETIC PROWESS.
PEAK BADGE – FOR CLIMBING AND TREKKING.
CANDY BADGE – FOR BOXING AND SELF-DEFENCE.
TIP TOP BADGE – FOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE HIGHWAY CODE.
ANGLO ACE
A.N.G.L.O. BADGE
THE PROUD INSIGNIA OF THE ALL NATIONS GUARD FOR LAW AND ORDER. YOU, TOO, COULD JOIN THE GUARD AND WEAR THIS BADGE – WATCH OUT FOR DETAILS SOON.
A.N.G.L.O. BELT
WHERE ACE KEEPS THE UNIQUE HIGH-PRESSURE CARTRIDGES FOR HIS INCREDIBLE BUBBLE GUN!
A.N.G.L.O. LASER TORCH
SENDS OUT ATOMISED BEAMS THAT CUT THROUGH THE THICKEST METAL!
A.N.G.L.O. ACTION WATCH
COMPLETELY WATERPROOF FOR UNDERWATER FORAYS. IT HAS A SWEEP SECOND HAND, JEWELLED MOVEMENT AND UNBREAKABLE MAINSPRING FOR THE SPLIT SECOND, RELIABLE TIMING THAT ANGLO ACE NEEDS.
A.N.G.L.O. PROVISION POCKET
HERE, ANGLO ACE KEEPS A GOOD SUPPLY OF DELICIOUS ANGLO BUBBLE GUMS!! HE KNOWS THERE'S NOTHING LIKE GUM CHEWING TO HELP HIM EVEN IN THE TRICKIEST SITUATIONS – AND ANGLO BUBBLE GUMS ARE THE BEST BY FAR!
A.N.G.L.O. MOTION BOOTS
LOOK LIKE NORMAL SHOES – BUT HAVE ACTION SPRINGS AND JET WHEELS FOR THE QUICKEST GETAWAYS EVER!
WATCH OUT FOR A.N.G.L.O. ACES ADVENTURES IN COMING WEEKS – AND FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN EXCITING PRIZES!
A.N.G.L.O. ACE SAYS;
'ANGLO BUBBLE GUMS GIVE YOU MORE FLAVOUR, MORE CHEW – AND THE BIGGEST BUBBLES!!!'
Sshhhhh
ANGLO BUBBLY
LIQUORICE
ANGLO BLACK CAT
ANGLO
TWO-TONE BUBBLE GUM
TIP TOP
FREE PICTURE
ANGLO PEAK

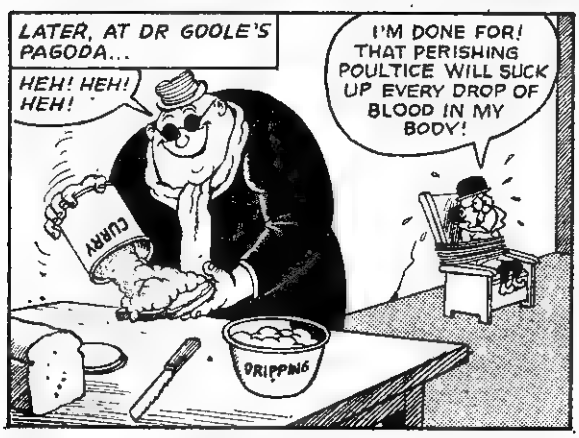
THE MAN FROM B.U.N.G.L.E.

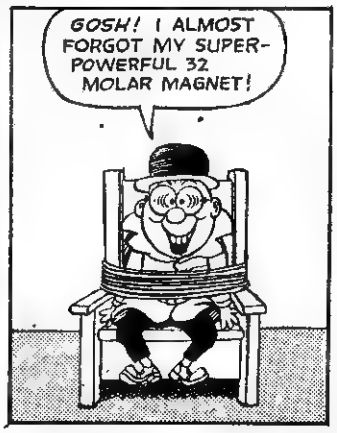


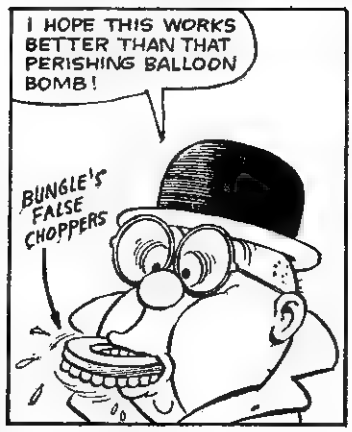


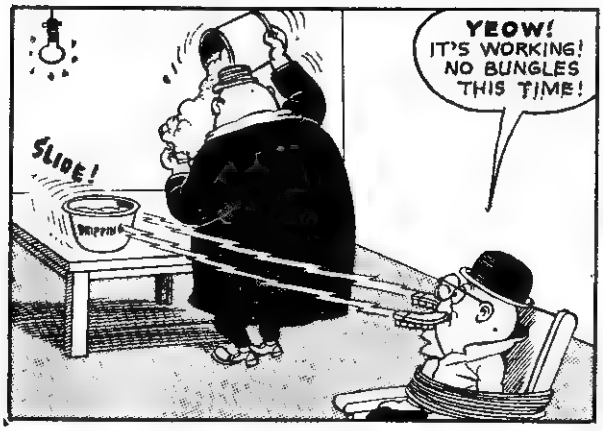


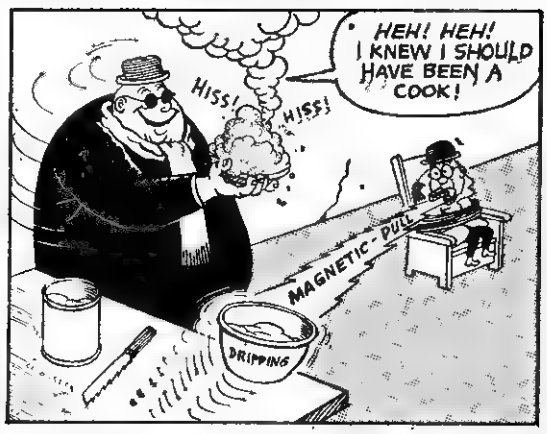


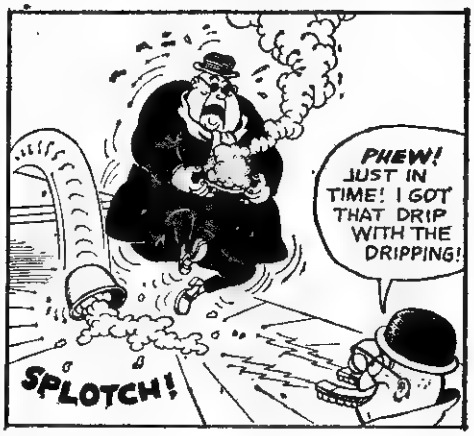


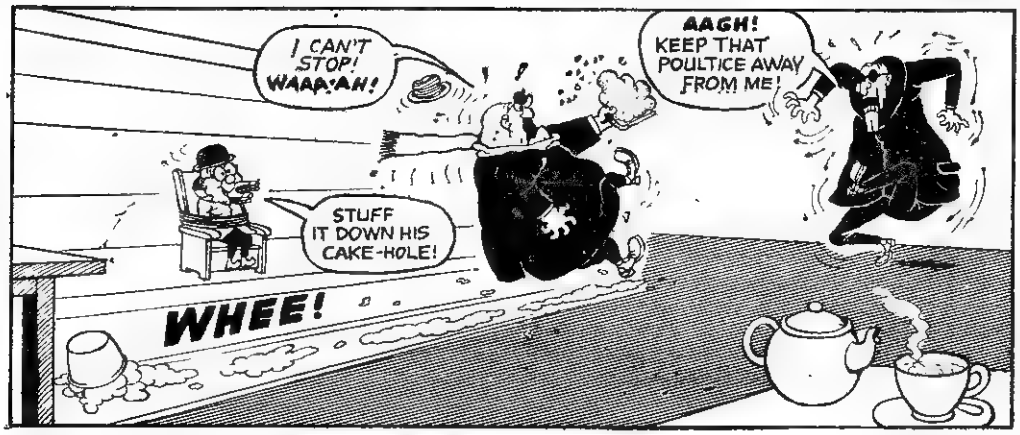


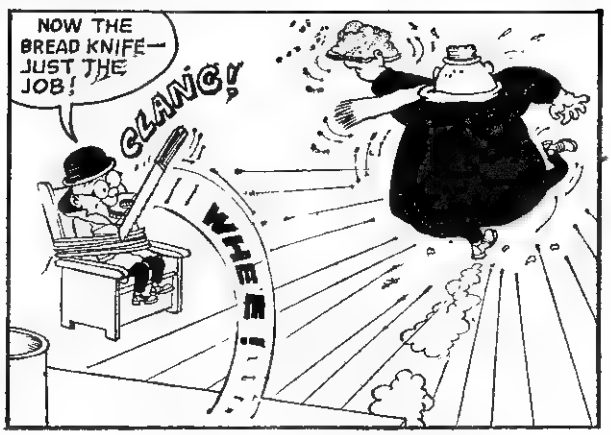


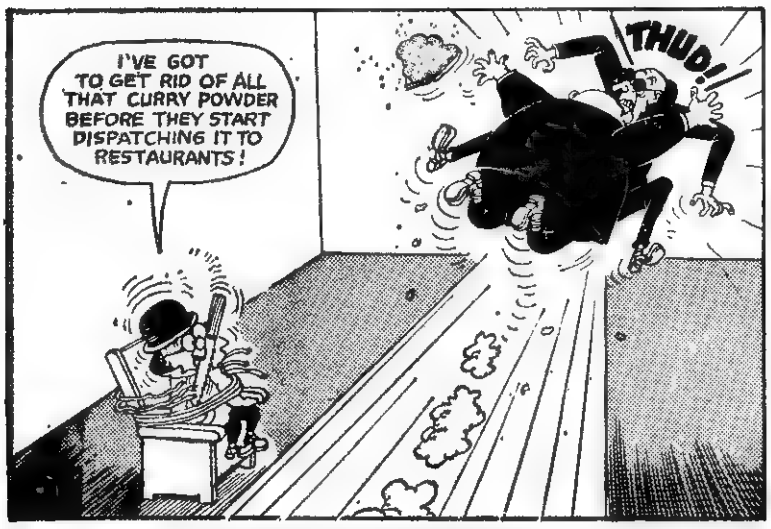




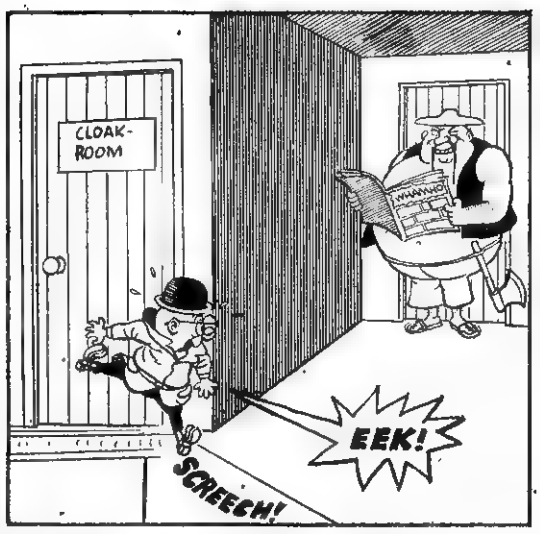







I'VE GOT TO GET RID OF ALL THAT CURRY POWDER BEFORE THEY START DISPATCHING IT TO RESTAURANTS!
THUD!

TO HONORABLE CURRY POWDER STORE

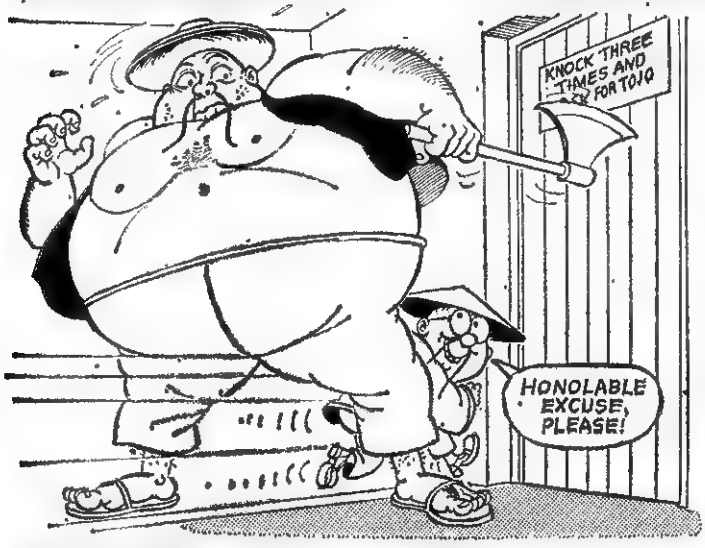

CLOAK-ROOM
EEK!
SCREECH!

CLOAK ROOM
COO! THIS MUST BE THE CLOAKROOM! JUST THE PLACE FOR CLOAK AND DAGGER STUFF!

HEH! HEH! THAT GINK WON'T RECOGNISE ME IN THIS LOT!

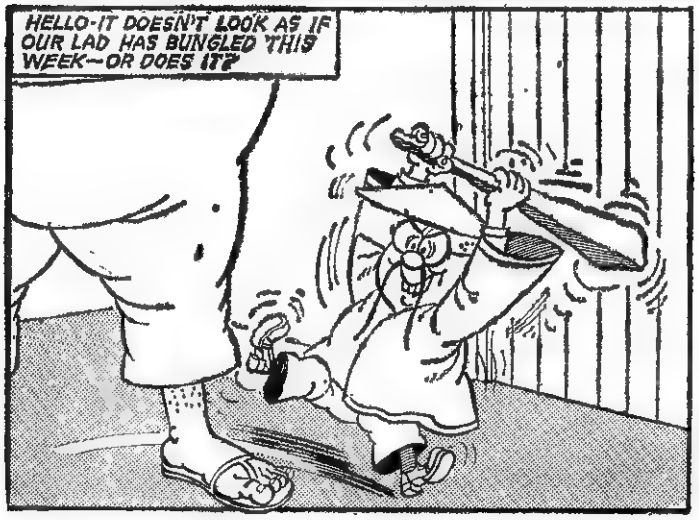
THE HONOLABLE MAN FROM BUNGLE NOW HONOLABLE CHINAMAN! AH-SO!

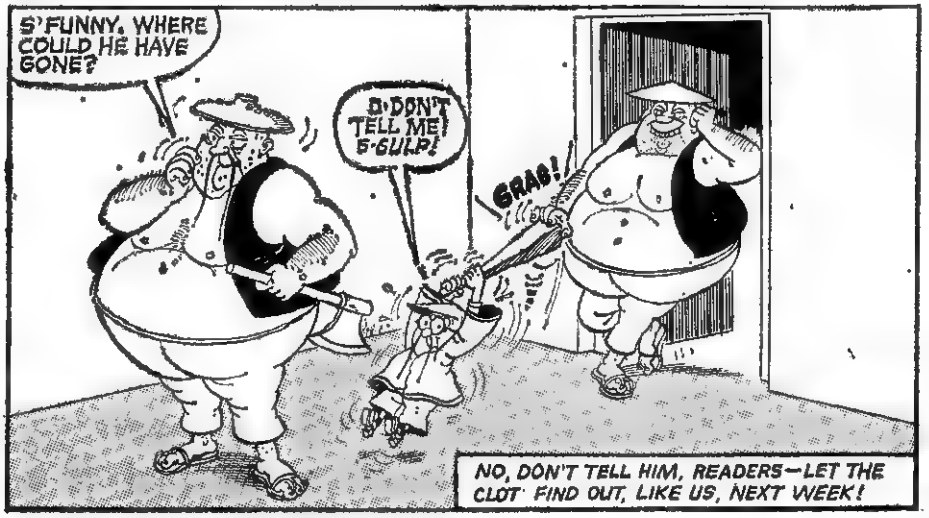
AH-SO! CHOP-SUEY AND NOODLES! VELLEE GOOD! CULLIED PLAWN! CHOPSTICKS, AND FLIED LICE! AH-SO!
?
SHUFFLE!


KNOCK THREE TIMES AND ASK FOR TOJO
HONOLABLE EXCUSE, PLEASE!

WHERE IS HE...?
KNOCK THREE TIMES AND ASK FOR TOJO
HEH! HEH! NOW TO FILL IN THIS CHINK!

FIRST I BASH HIS TOES TO BRING HIS HEAD DOWN, THEN I BASH HIS NUT!


HELLO-IT DOESN'T LOOK AS IF OUR LAD HAS BUNGLED THIS WEEK—OR DOES IT?


S'FUNNY. WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE?
D-DON'T TELL ME! S-GULP!
GRAB!
NO, DON'T TELL HIM, READERS—LET THE CLOT FIND OUT, LIKE US, NEXT WEEK!

BE A SMASHER AND WRITE TO SMASH! — you'll win £1 if your letter is printed!

Dear Alf and Cos,
I thought that the readers would like to know the origins of the members of the Avengers. Giant Man, Henry Pym, invented a size-controlling serum to use it to fight crime as Ant Man and later as Giant Man. Don Blake became Thor when he found an old stick in a cave, when this was hit on the ground he became Thor. Steve Rogers was a "guinea-pig" for a new serum. This serum gave him excess strength and agility.
B. Quirke,
King's Heath, Birmingham.

Every now and again we get a letter like yours which reminds us that our readers know as much about what we're doing as we do ourselves. It's just like going to a party and finding that you know a lot of the people there.

Alf and Cos.

* * *

Dear Alf and Cos,
I am just a new reader of Smash and I think it is smashing. Your stories are great and artwork superb. But in Smash 29 you had no Hulk story, you only had the F.F. who were going to battle him. And what's the idea of going from F.F 1 to F.F.25-26! You missed out some darn good stories. In that issue I thought that the Danger Mouse when the cat called himself Bobcat was good. Are you getting Spidey? Hope so. Also are you putting out F.F. sweatshirts? Keep up the good work.
Gary Gillam,
Tasmania, Australia.

Congratulations on joining the Power Pack Gang! From now on you have every excuse to walk a little taller and smile a little broader. And don't worry about the missing F.F. stories. Like you, we know how great they are, and we promise you that we shall be re-telling every monumental moment of all of them! Patience is all that's needed—we'll do the rest.

Alf and Cos.

Dear Alf and Cos,
In number 47 of Smash (the best comic out this side of the sun) Bruce Banner says that when his blood pressure rises he changes into the Hulk. This is not so Due to the Gamma rays Banner changes into Greeny only at night, when he imprisons himself in a cell. And also I betcha didn't know Betty Ross (during the Golden Age of Comics) helped Captain America on a few cases.
William Little,
Newbiggin-by-Sea,
Northumberland.

P.S. I've heard that Cap. once had an assistant. Could you please tell me who it was? So, in the immortal words of Alf and Cos, "Make mine SMASH".

Bill—it's always nice to hear from someone who knows as much about our characters as you do. About Bruce Banner. As you say, Bruce first became the Hulk after being exposed to Gamma rays and for a while the change only took place at night. But after a while Bruce found himself becoming the Hulk during daylight hours as well, and he at last realised that the change took place when he became excited and his pulse rate was raised. No—we must confess that we didn't know that Cap. and Betty Ross are old buddies from way back. But we can tell you the name of Cap's assistant. It was Bucky. Keep facing front!

Alf and Cos.

* * * *

Dear Alf and Cos,
I do not think it's fair that you should get all the credit for all the stories in SMASH. The artist should get some credit and so should the printer and the writer.
Nigel Barry,
Middleton, Lancs.

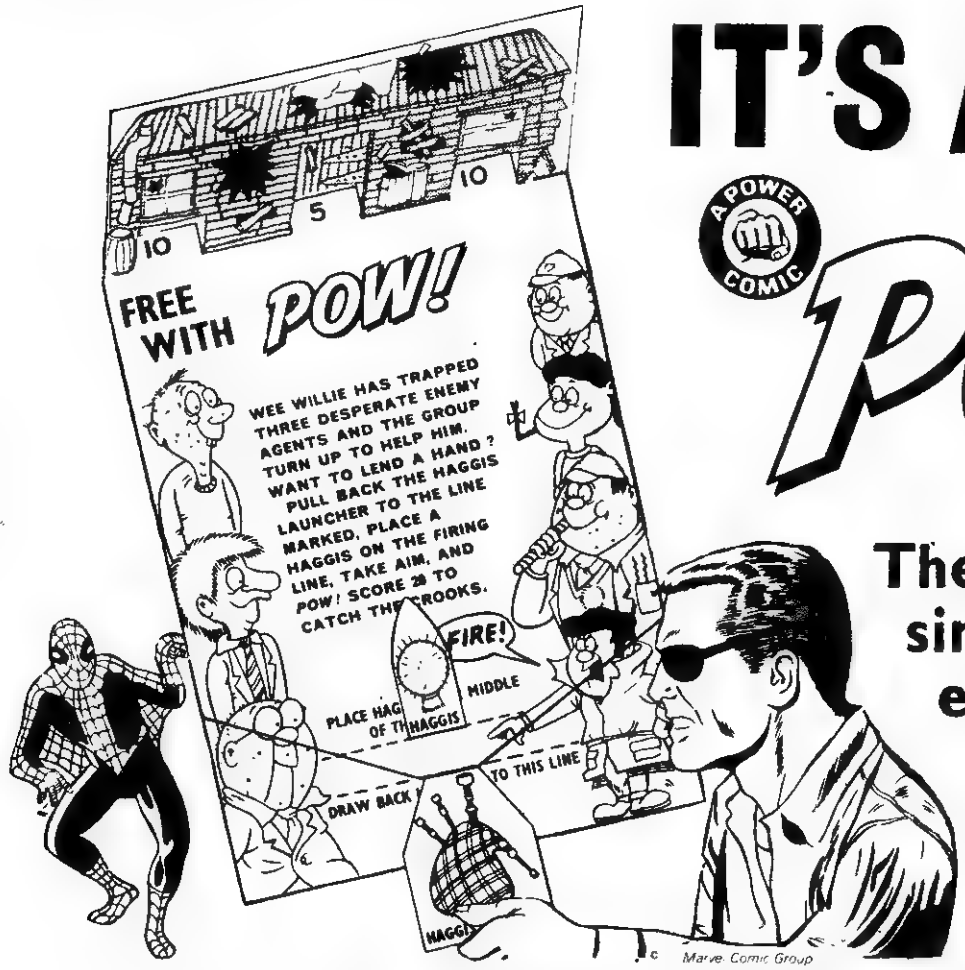
P.S. I hope I don't sound bad tempered.

Bad tempered? With us being used to dealing with the Hulk *and the* Thing, *you sound as sweet and mild as a choir boy, Nigel! But be fair. From time to time we do publish the names of our artists and writers.*

Alf and Cos

Most of you love SMASH!, but if you want to love it MORE—just fill in the form and send it in with your letter. We'll take note of what you say, and you'll finish up with 28 pages of pure bliss!
My favourite feature in SMASH! is
.....
The feature I don't like is:
.....
To: SMASH, 64, Long Acre, London, W.C.2.

IT'S *FREE* IN *POW!*



A POWER COMIC

The greatest game invented since Snap—in the greatest comic printed since paper!

(We've even got Spider-man and Nick Fury at it!)

© Marvel Comic Group

IT'S IN THE SHOPS NOW! *POW!*

ROLLO STONES AND DANNY CHARTERS...

THE LEGEND TESTERS

LOOK OUT, DANNY!

BLACK SHIELD'S GUARDS!

ROLLO STONES AND DANNY CHARTERS HAVE TRAVELLED BACK TO THE DAYS OF KING ARTHUR, TO TEST THE LEGEND OF THE MAGIC ORB OF MERLIN—THE ORB WHICH IS NOW IN THE POSSESSION OF THE RUTHLESS BLACK SHIELD! THEY ENTER BLACK SHIELD'S CASTLE—**AND DISCOVER ROBOTS BUILDING TWENTIETH-CENTURY TANKS!**

HEAVILY OUTNUMBERED AND COMPLETELY UNARMED, ROLLO AND DANNY ARE DEFENCELESS AGAINST THE SUDDEN ATTACK...!

YOU WILL COME WITH US—TO BLACK SHIELD!

WITH A SWORD AT MY THROAT, I'M NOT ARGUING!

AND NOW LET US VISIT THE EVIL BLACK SHIELD. WE JOIN HIM AS HIS YOUNG WARD, THE BEAUTIFUL ROWENA, BURSTS INTO HIS CHAMBER...

I BEG OF OF YOU TO TELL ME WHAT IS HAPPENING! ALL THESE *STRANGE THINGS* I SEE! I'M SO *FRIGHTENED!*

YOU KNOW MY ORDERS! *THIS PART OF THE CASTLE IS FORBIDDEN TO YOU!*

AND IT IS AT THIS VERY MOMENT THAT THE MAIN DOOR OPENS AND ROLLO AND DANNY ARE HERDED INTO THE ROOM...

MY LORD—WE HAVE TWO SPIES!

YOUR VERY PRESENCE UNDER MY ROOF TESTS MY PATIENCE, GIRL! GET BACK TO YOUR ROOMS AND STAY IN THEM!

NOT UNTIL ROWENA HAS DEPARTED DOES BLACK SHIELD SPEAK AGAIN...

NO DOUBT ARTHUR SENT YOU HERE! AND FOR THAT I THANK HIM, FOR YOU SHALL BE THE VICTIMS UPON WHOM TO TEST THE KILLING POWER OF SOME OF THE TOYS I AM MAKING!

HAVE THEM LOCKED IN THE EAST TURRET!

THUS ROLLO AND DANNY FIND THEMSELVES SECURELY IMPRISONED WITHIN A SMALL ROOM SET HIGH IN A STONE WALL OF BLACK SHIELD'S STRONGHOLD!

THIS DOOR WOULD KEEP AN ARMY OUT—*OR IN!*

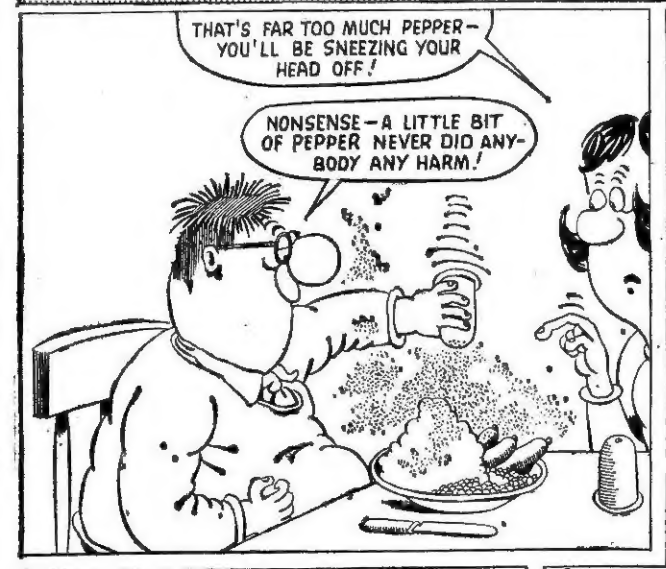
AND IT WOULD NEED FAR MORE THAN HUMAN STRENGTH TO BUDGE THESE BARS A FRACTION OF AN INCH!

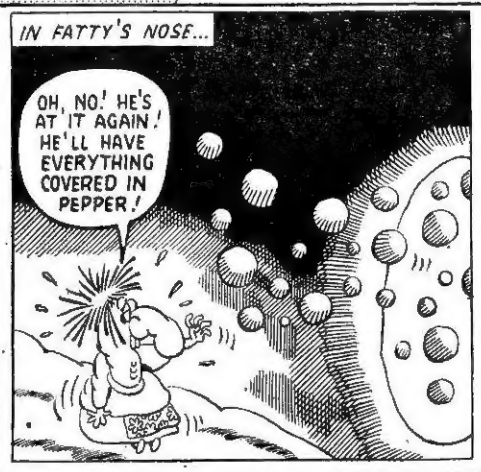
ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT—*WAIT AND HOPE!*

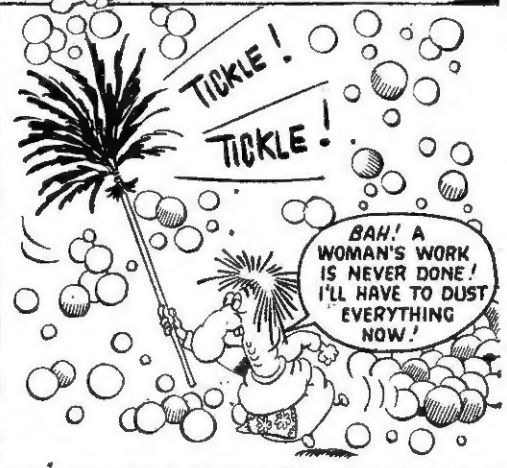
A WEEK PASSES... A WEEK DURING WHICH THE FEVERISH ACTIVITY IN BLACK SHIELD'S WORK-SHOPS MOUNTS DAILY! MORE WORKER ROBOTS ARE BUILT—AND THESE, IN TURN, CONSTRUCT FURTHER ROBOTS OF THEIR OWN KIND—ALL HELPING TO TRANSFORM BLACK SHIELD'S CASTLE INTO A FORTRESS CRAMMED WITH THE MEANS OF DESTRUCTION!

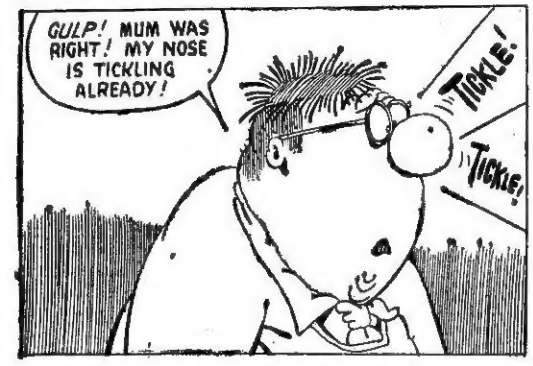
MEANWHILE, IN CAMELOT, KING ARTHUR AT LAST BEGINS TO PAY HEED TO THE WARNINGS OF MERLIN THE MAGICIAN!
MY LIEGE! A WEEK HAS PASSED SINCE SIR TRISTAN RODE OFF TO SUMMON BLACK SHIELD TO YOUR PRESENCE! YET STILL HE DOES NOT RETURN!
AND STILL I FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE THAT BLACK SHIELD — THAT ANYONE — WOULD DARE CHALLENGE THE MIGHT OF HIS KING! BUT SINCE BLACK SHIELD HAS NOT COME TO ME — THEN I MUST GO TO HIM!
AND SO, THE FOLLOWING MORN, A GLITTERING CAVALCADE SETS FORTH FROM CAMELOT. AND PERHAPS NEVER BEFORE HAS SUCH AN ASSEMBLY OF CHIVALRY, VALOUR AND HONOUR BEEN UNITED FOR ONE PURPOSE...
IF BLACK SHIELD DOES INDEED CHOOSE TO DEFY HIS KING, HE SHALL FIND HIMSELF FACED WITH A FIGHTING FORCE THAT IS UNEQUALLED ANYWHERE WITHIN THIS REALM — OR, INDEED, WITHIN THE VERY WORLD!
ALL THAT MORNING AND MOST OF THE AFTERNOON THEY RIDE... TO REIN IN AT LAST WITHIN SIGHT OF THE FROWNING WALLS OF BLACK SHIELD'S CASTLE....
BLACK SHIELD MUST HAVE SEEN OUR APPROACH. AND YET THE DRAWBRIDGE IS RAISED! IT SEEMS THAT HE DOES INDEED INTEND TO DEFY ME!
SIR PERCIVAL. WILL YOU BE THE CHALLENGER?
I SHALL BE FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR THE HONOUR, MY LIEGE!
SIR PERCIVAL RIDES TO WITHIN HAILING DISTANCE OF THE CASTLE...
BLACK SHIELD! HEAR ME! YOUR KING — YOUR RIGHTFUL SOVERIEGN LORD — INSTRUCTS YOU TO PRESENT YOURSELF TO HIM!
YOU HAVE THREE MINUTES IN WHICH TO APPEAR, ALONE AND UNARMED, FOR ME TO ESCORT YOU TO HIS MAJESTY!
THREE LONG MINUTES DRAG BY, AS ROLLO AND DANNY WATCH FROM THEIR TURRET WINDOW...
BLACK SHIELD! — YOU HAVE NOW BRANDED YOURSELF A TRAITOR TO YOUR KING! I CAST MY GAUNTLET DOWN AT YOU AND CHALLENGE YOU TO MEET ME IN MORTAL COMBAT HERE, ON THIS GREEN SWARD, ONE HOUR FROM NOW!
AND IN ANOTHER CHAMBER, WHERE BLACK SHIELD WATCHES SIR PERCIVAL RIDE OFF...
WHAT WILL YOU DO, BLACK SHIELD?
I SHALL DO WHAT ANY KNIGHT WOULD DO! I SHALL ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE!
BUT THE LANCE I SHALL CARRY SHALL BE FAR DIFFERENT — FAR MORE DEADLY! — THAN THE ONE SIR PERCY WILL BE HOLDING!
SHORTLY BEFORE AN HOUR PASSES, SIR PERCIVAL TAKES UP HIS POSITION ON THE SPRINGY GREEN TURF. AND WHEN PRECISELY ONE HOUR HAS PASSED, THE GREAT DRAWBRIDGE OF THE CASTLE IS LOWERED, AND BLACK SHIELD EMERGES...
A MOMENT LATER THE TWO MOUNTED KNIGHTS BEAR DOWN UPON EACH OTHER...
AND NOW SHALL BLACK SHIELD LEARN THE FOLLY OF DEFYING HIS KING! THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT AS TO THE OUTCOME OF THIS COMBAT — FOR SIR PERCIVAL IS BLACK SHIELD'S SUPERIOR WITH LANCE OR SWORD!
AND ROLLO AND DANNY TOO WATCH THE CHARGING HORSEMEN DRAW EVER CLOSER...
THERE'S ONE THING, ROLLO! BLACK SHIELD ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE — SO HE'S NO COWARD!
I WISH I BELIEVED IT WAS AS SIMPLE AS THAT! BUT BLACK SHIELD HAS GOT SOME VILLAINY PLANNED — I'M SURE OF IT!
BUT NOW — WITH THE POINT OF SHUDDERING IMPACT ONLY INCHES AWAY — WE'VE REACHED THE END OF THE PAGE! SO WHATEVER IT IS THAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN WILL HAVE TO HAPPEN NEXT WEEK! BUT IT'LL BE WORTH WAITING FOR!

THE NERVS

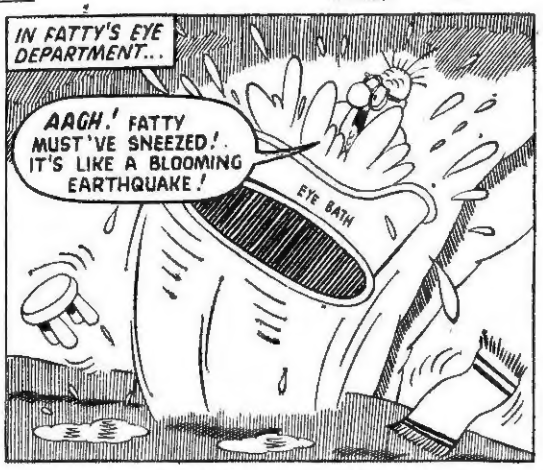

THAT'S FAR TOO MUCH PEPPER— YOU'LL BE SNEEZING YOUR HEAD OFF!
NONSENSE—A LITTLE BIT OF PEPPER NEVER DID ANYBODY ANY HARM!


IN FATTY'S NOSE...
OH, NO! HE'S AT IT AGAIN! HE'LL HAVE EVERYTHING COVERED IN PEPPER!


TICKLE!
TICKLE!
BAH! A WOMAN'S WORK IS NEVER DONE! I'LL HAVE TO DUST EVERYTHING NOW!

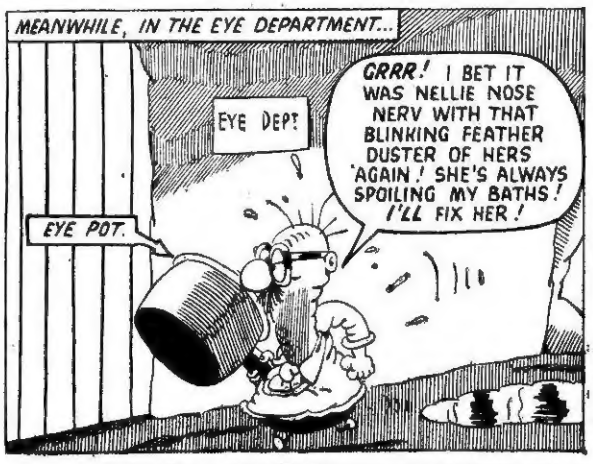

GULP! MUM WAS RIGHT! MY NOSE IS TICKLING ALREADY!
TICKLE!
TICKLE!

WHAT DID I TELL YOU? YOU NEARLY BLEW YOUR HEAD OFF THERE!
ACHOOO!

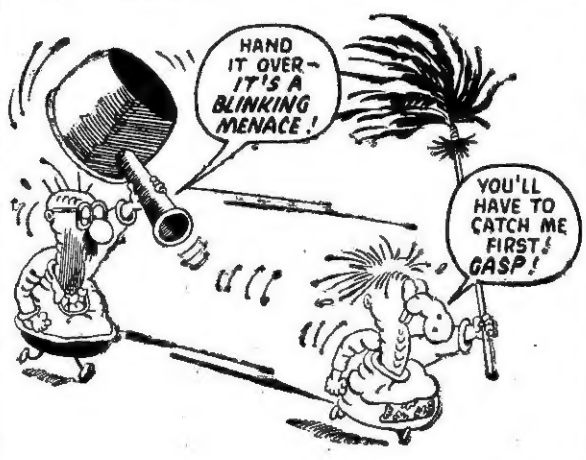

IN FATTY'S EYE DEPARTMENT...
AAGH! FATTY MUST'VE SNEEZED! IT'S LIKE A BLOOMING EARTHQUAKE!
EYE BATH

GRRR! THE WHOLE EYE DEPARTMENT IS SOAKING WET NOW! WHAT A MESS!
EYE DEPT

COO! LOOK WHERE ALL THAT WATER'S GOING, READERS...
GOSH! IT'S FUNNY HOW A SNEEZE MAKES YOUR EYES WATER!


MEANWHILE, IN THE EYE DEPARTMENT...
EYE DEPT
EYE POT.
GRRR! I BET IT WAS NELLIE NOSE NERV WITH THAT BLINKING FEATHER DUSTER OF HERS AGAIN! SHE'S ALWAYS SPOILING MY BATHS! I'LL FIX HER!

RIGHT, NELLIE— HAND OVER THAT FEATHER DUSTER! IT CAUSES FAR TOO MUCH TROUBLE!
MY FEATHER DUSTER? NEVER! NEVER!


HAND IT OVER— IT'S A BLINKING MENACE!
YOU'LL HAVE TO CATCH ME FIRST! GASP!

GRRR! I'LL SOON STOP HER!

FIRE!
BOOM!
AAGH! HE'S GUNNING FOR ME!
YAH! MISSED ME! HE COULDN'T HIT A BARN DOOR!
ON FATTY'S NECK...
HMM! MUST CUT THE HAIRS ON THE BACK OF FATTY'S NECK— THEY'RE GETTING A BIT ON THE LONG SIDE!
NECK U.D.C. KEEP OFF THE HAIR
WHEEEEEE!
AAGH! A BLOOMING SHELL! WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?
NECK U.D.C. KEEP OFF THE HAIR
WHIRRRRR!
BOOM!
WHIRRRRR!
HELP! A FLYING LAWN-MOWER!
CHOP! CHEW!
AAGH! IT'S MOWED DOWN MY DUSTER!
COO! SHE'S TAKING IT BADLY— JUST BECAUSE I WON! I'D BETTER GET A DOCTOR TO SEE HER!
GIBBER! GIBBER! BURBLE! GOO! GOO!
AND SO...
YOU NEED A REST, NELLIE! GO ON A NICE LONG CRUISE DOWN THE BLOODSTREAM! HAVE A WEEK OFF!
SHE'S GOT AN INFLATABLE RAFT AT HOME! I'LL GET IT— IT'S ALL MY FAULT REALLY!
IN THE NOSE DEPARTMENT...
AH! HERE IT IS! OUT YOU COME!
JUNK CUPBOARD
INFLATABLE RAFT
NERV TONIC
WHUSH!
OH, NO! IT'S BLOWING UP— THE SELF-INFLATER MUST HAVE CAUGHT ON TO SOMETHING!
NOSE DEPT
I'M GETTING OUT OF THERE! IT'S FILLING UP THE WHOLE ROOM! IT'S A HUGE THING!
HELP! NOW ALL MY NOSE IS SWOLLEN!
HAR! HAR! I WARNED YOU, DIDN'T I?

GRIMLY FEENDISH

THE ROTTENEST CROOK IN THE WORLD